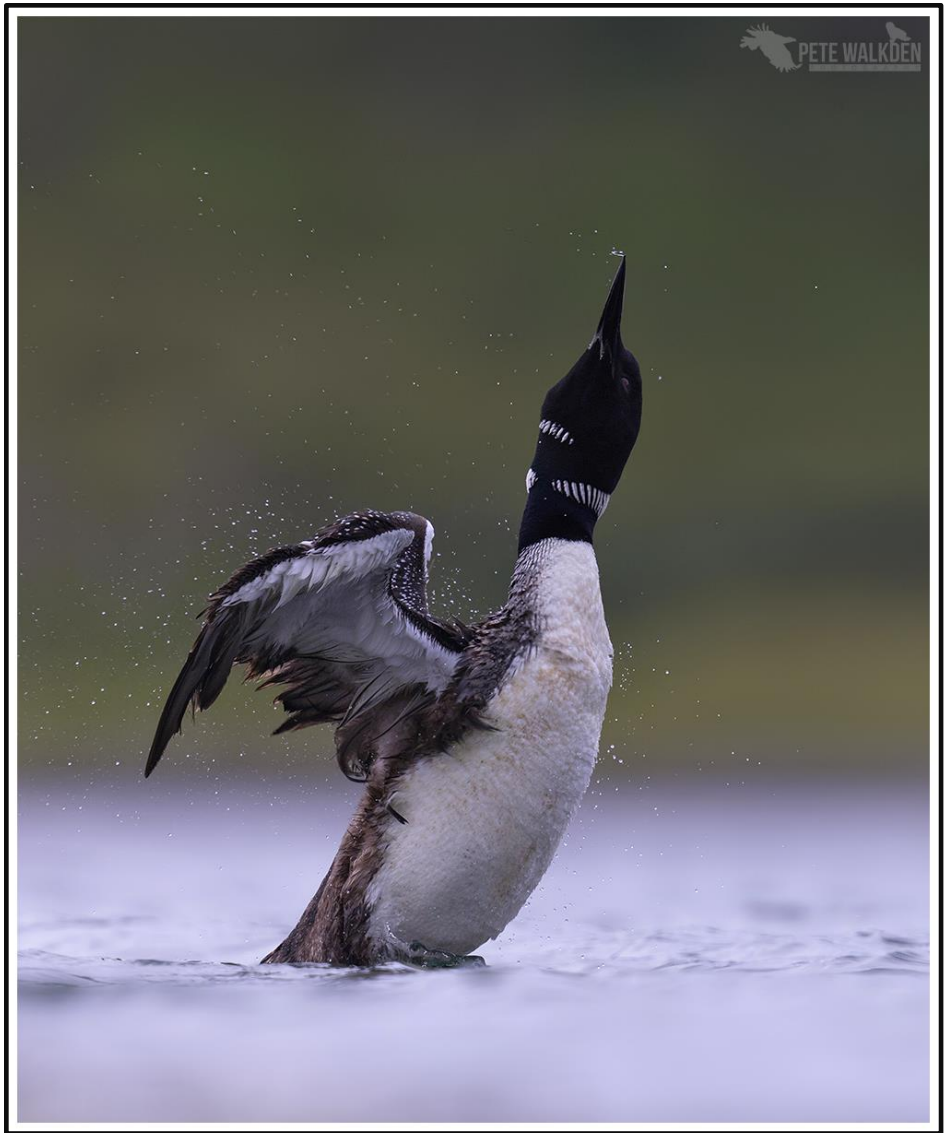


Argyll Bird Report 2022



published by the
Argyll Bird Club



Great Northern Diver *Mull Aug 2022 (Pete Walkden)*

www.petewalkden.co.uk

FRONT COVER Black Grouse *(Ann McGregor)*

The Thirty Fourth
ARGYLL BIRD REPORT
With Systematic List for the year
2022



Editorial team: David C Jardine, Jim Dickson & Malcolm Chattwood
on behalf of the Argyll Bird Club

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2022 (34th) Argyll Bird Report and once again a big thank you to everyone who has kindly provided a total of 65,000+ records over the year to make this report possible. We particularly welcome the significant increase in reports from Mull and elsewhere, through BirdTrack, eBird, and also from our friends and colleagues in the Mull Bird Club. With the next bird atlas beginning to appear on the horizon it is now timely to remind contributors that it is always helpful to provide evidence of breeding whenever possible and some pointers for which species this would be most welcome are included in the report. It is also helpful if reasonably precise locations can be provided as this can save time for both the observer and the bird recorder.

While the challenges of COVID-19 declined during 2022 and their impact on bird recording declined, another pandemic, that of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) had a significant impact on some of Argyll's birds. Declines and deaths were noted in our wintering geese populations, survival of White-tailed Eagle chicks was poor, and in mid-summer large numbers of seabirds, particularly Guillemots, and to a lesser extent Gannets were washed ashore in southern Argyll. It remains to be seen what lasting effects these will have on these important populations; counts are planned at the major seabird colonies in 2023 to assess the impact.



Photo: Tom Lowe

The Argyll Bird Club has resumed meetings during the year and has modernised its constitution to that of a SCIO to allow the club, if it chooses, to become involved in a wider range of activities. More details about the club can be found on the ABC website at – [Argyll Bird Club](#)

The systematic list follows the latest Scottish List (BOU/IOC 2021). For simplicity the use of common or vernacular species names are used in this report, being the names that most

birdwatchers in our region would generally relate to more easily. Details of where to find species within the new ordering of the list can be found in the contents list.

A record number of species were recorded across Argyll in 2022, however, as with many other sparsely populated areas of Scotland, compared to say the SE of England, vast areas of land are not often visited, and much must go missed or undetected. The scope to discover more is therefore positively challenging and exciting to any keen birder.

During the year two new species were added to the Argyll list – Dark-eyed Junco and Serin. In recent years new species have often been found on Tiree, so it was refreshing these were found on Islay and in Kintyre respectively. Other notable ‘finds’ during the year included two second records for Argyll (Harlequin Duck, being found just before Christmas by two lucky observers, and Wilson’s Petrel, which was last record in 1891), along with Red-breasted Goose, Pied-billed Grebe, Stone Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Yellow-legged Gull, Cattle Egret, Pallid Harrier, Black Kite and Greenish Warbler, all of which have had fewer than five previous records.

Good numbers of Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter and Balearic Shearwaters were noted, and numbers of Red Kite and Marsh Harrier remained high and hopes for proof of their breeding in the near future remains high, something that was achieved in 2022 for Honey Buzzard. Seabird populations were up on the previous year and breeding success appeared to be high, but the real effect of HPAI on this group remains to be seen. Following a few years of declining numbers, the Corncrakes population remained stable, and numbers of the small population of Red-necked Phalarope in Argyll increased in line with a national increase in this rare wader. It was a relatively poor year for Nearctic wader species, but Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints appeared in good numbers, along with several Spotted Redshanks.

Cold weather delayed the arrival of spring migrants slightly, and this is also reflected in a slight decline in the population of species where population numbers are available from Breeding Bird Surveys e.g. Willow Warbler, Whinchat and Tree Pipit.

During the year the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme published 20-year trends for raptors in Scotland and its regions based on the work of the members of the Argyll Raptor Study Group, RSPB and others ([Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme Trends 2009-2018: Regional-focus](#)). In Argyll statistically significant trends were found for a few species; an increase in the number of breeding pairs of White-tailed Eagles was found (but no trend in clutch or brood size, or breeding success); the numbers of pairs of Buzzards and Peregrines declined (but no trend in clutch or brood size, or breeding success). No significant trends in breeding numbers, breeding success, clutch or brood size were found for Osprey, Golden Eagle, Hen Harrier, Barn Owl or Raven.

If you would like to get involved more with recording and surveying birds in Argyll the best point of contact is through Jim Dickson and Malcolm Chattwood for general bird sightings and through BTO representatives listed on page 3 who can advise on breeding bird, uplands and wetlands survey locations.

David Jardine, Jim Dickson & Malcolm Chattwood
Editorial Team
March 2023

Bird Recording in Argyll

Submitting your bird records

The Argyll bird recorders maintain the Argyll bird database on behalf of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Argyll Bird Club and in recent years have been receiving more than 60,000 records per year. We welcome all bird records, however please look at the guidance sheet on the Argyll Bird Club website under [Bird Recording – Argyll Bird Club](#) which gives threshold guidelines on what to report. The recorders are happy to input casual reports, however when larger volumes of records are submitted, we recommend that these are sent in *Excel* spread sheet format compatible with the Argyll bird database. We can send you a template or for regular record providers we can send an automated input form. Please email abcrecorder@outlook.com for more details. Records sent to the BTO's BirdTrack and WeBS can be accessed by the recorders as well as records sent to Birdguides and eBird.

Rare birds

Details and photographs of all rare bird sightings should be sent in (preferably emailed) as soon as possible after the sighting to **Jim Dickson**, 11 Pipers Road, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8UF. Tel: 01546 603967 E-mail: Argyllbirder@outlook.com Please use the standard reporting form (available from Jim). These will be judged locally by the Argyll Bird Records Committee (ABRC) whose members are listed on p. 3, sent on to the *Scottish Birds* Records Committee (SBRC), or passed to the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (BBRC), depending on the species/level of rarity.

The list below, made up of the ABRC list of Argyll rarities and the SBRC list of Scottish rarities (those marked #), details rare species whose occurrence in Argyll needs to be fully documented i.e. details of the circumstances surrounding the sighting and a detailed description of the bird and if possible, photographs and field notes.

Records of rarities in the systematic list are accompanied by the names of the observers, starting with the finder(s)/identifier(s), (or, in the absence of this information, the person who first reported the bird to the recorder), followed by the observer(s) who submitted details of the record, if different.

Species for which descriptions are required by the Argyll BRC and the Scottish BRC (#). A full list of BBRC species can be found at <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information>

List updated 1 Jan 2023.

Black Brant #
Taiga Bean Goose
Tundra Bean Goose
European White-fronted Goose
(race *albifrons*)
Bewick's Swan
Egyptian Goose
American Wigeon
Green-winged Teal
Garganey (lone females/juveniles)
Red-crested Pochard #
Ring-necked Duck
Surf Scoter (except adult males)
Smew

Ruddy Duck
White-billed Diver
Wilson's Petrel #
Cory's Shearwater #
Great Shearwater #
Balearic Shearwater
Great Cormorant (race *sinensis*)
Eurasian Bittern
Night-heron #
Cattle Egret #
Great White Egret
Purple Heron #
White Stork
Glossy Ibis

Eurasian Spoonbill
 Red-necked Grebe
 Black-necked Grebe
 Honey-buzzard
 Black Kite #
 Montagu's Harrier #
 Goshawk
 Rough-legged Buzzard
 Red-footed Falcon #
 Hobby
 Spotted Crane
 Common Crane
 Avocet
 Black-winged Stilt #
 Stone Curlew #
 Little Ringed Plover
 American Golden Plover
 Black-tailed Godwit (continental) #
 Temminck's Stint
 White-rumped Sandpiper #
 Pectoral Sandpiper
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper
 Lesser Yellowlegs #
 Spotted Redshank
 Red-necked Phalarope (away from
 traditional breeding areas)
 Long-tailed Skua (imms only)
 Sabine's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull
 Yellow-legged Gull #
 Caspian Gull #
 Black Tern
 White-winged Black Tern #
 Roseate Tern
 Little Owl #
 Nightjar
 Alpine Swift #
 European Bee-eater #
 Wryneck
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker #
 Red-backed Shrike
 Great Grey Shrike
 Woodchat Shrike #
 Firecrest

Crested Tit
 Willow Tit
 Marsh Tit #
 Bearded Tit
 Short-toed Lark #
 Wood Lark #
 Shore Lark
 Red-rumped Swallow #
 Cetti's Warbler #
 Greenish Warbler #
 Pallas's Leaf Warbler
 Yellow-browed Warbler
 Radde's Warbler #
 Dusky Warbler #
 Arctic Warbler #
 Barred Warbler
 Lesser Whitethroat
 Dartford Warbler #
 Icterine Warbler
 Melodious Warbler #
 Blyth's Reed Warbler
 Marsh Warbler
 Reed Warbler
 Rose-coloured Starling
 Common Nightingale
 Bluethroat
 Red-flanked Bluetail #
 Red-breasted Flycatcher
 Yellow Wagtail (all races)
 Citrine Wagtail #
 Richard's Pipit
 Olive-backed Pipit
 Rock Pipit (Scandinavian race *littoralis*)
 Water Pipit
 European Serin #
 Common Redpoll (all races other than
 Lesser)
 Parrot Crossbill #
 Common Rosefinch
 Hawfinch
 Cirl Bunting #
 Ortolan Bunting #
 Little Bunting
 Corn Bunting

Sighting Highlights of 2022



Leach's Petrel *Mull* Jan 2022 (*P. Upton*)



Lesser Scaup *Islay* Jan 2022 (*J. Dickson*)



'Siberian' Chiffchaff *Mull* Feb 2022 (*E. Miles*)



White-billed Diver *Islay* Feb 2022 (*W. Scott*)

~ *January* ~

AMERICAN WIGEON male from 2021 remained at Loch Skerrols *Islay* until at least 2 Jan. **LESSER SCAUP** five 1W (4 males & female) from 2021, at Loch Skerrols *Islay* joined by an additional female from 14 Feb, remained until last bird seen on 18 Mar. **RING-NECKED DUCK** male and 2 females at Loch Bhasapol and 1W male at Loch a' Phuill remaining on *Tiree* since

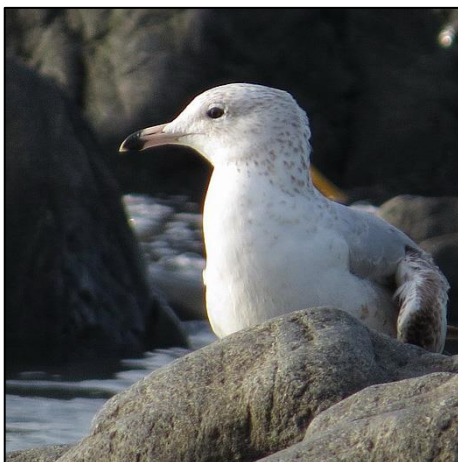
2021 until last bird seen on 11 Apr. **LEACH'S PETREL** single at Fionnphort *Mull* on 2 Jan (died on 3 Jan). **'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF** single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Jan. **LITTLE AUK** single at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 9 Jan and another in a garden at Loch Striven *Cowal* on 10 Jan. **LITTLE GULL** a 2CY at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan. **RING OUZEL** male at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 24 Jan. **WAXWING** single at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan. **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** single adult remaining from 2021 at Gruinart *Islay* until at least 22 Mar. **CAKCLING GOOSE** single remaining from 2021 seen in various locations on *Islay* to 6 Apr. **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** singles from 2021 remained on *Tiree* until 31 Mar and at the Laggan *Kintyre* until 5 Apr.

~ February ~

'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF single at Dervaig *Mull* on 2 Feb. **SMEW** a fem/imm at Loch Ulagadale *Kintyre* on 10 Feb. **STOCK DOVE** single at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb. **LITTLE EGRET** six were at Loch Striven *Cowal* on 17 Feb. **POMARINE SKUA** two were off *Colonsay* following storm Eunice, on 19 Feb. **WHITE-BILLED DIVER** adult near Port Ellen *Islay* on 25 Feb.



Snow Goose *Kintyre* Mar 2022 (J. Dickson)



Ring-billed Gull *Tiree* Mar 2022 (K. Gillon)

~ March ~

SNOW GOOSE single 'white phase' bird Drumlemble *Kintyre* on 13 - 29 Mar. **RED KITE** singles at Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar and at Kilchrenan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar. **STOCK DOVE** single at Dunnamuck *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar. **RING-BILLED GULL** a 2CY was at Hough *Tiree* on 22 - 29 Mar. **GREEN WOODPECKER** single at Croig *Mull* on 22 Mar. **VELVET SCOTER** two males were at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 26 Mar. **BLACK REDSTART** single fem/imm at Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 29 Mar.

~ April ~

HAWFINCH single in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr. **DOTTEREL** five at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr. **GARGANEY** pair at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Apr, male at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Apr. **SURF SCOTER** three (two 2CY males, female) at Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 13-14 Apr. **CATTLE EGRET** single at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 13 Apr. **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** single adult at Kilkenzie *Kintyre* on 14 Apr. **MARSH HARRIER** singles, at Drumlemble *Kintyre* on 7 Apr, and imm male at Loch Tallant *Islay* on 17 Apr. **LAPLAND BUNTING** male at Loch Beg *Mull* on 24 Apr and two males at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 26 Apr. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** single summer adult at Laggan Bay *Mull* on 25 Apr.



Cattle Egret *Kintyre* Apr 2022 (V. Russell) **Spotted Redshank** *Mull* Apr 2022 (T. de Clermont)



Dark-eyed Junco *Islay* May 2022 (D. Dinsley)

~ May ~

DARK-EYED JUNCO male at Kildalton *Islay* on 7 May (first for Argyll). **STONE- CURLEW** single at Balinoe *Tiree* on 11 May. **GARGANEY** single male at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 May and two males at Loch Bhasapol on 19 May. **BLACK KITE** single at Dervaig *Mull* on 16 May. **MARSH HARRIER** single at Saligo *Islay* on 16 May. **BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL** female at Balevullin *Tiree* on 18-19 May. **HAWFINCH** female at Glenegedale *Islay* on 19 May. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** adult male at Balephuill *Tiree* on 20 May. **WOOD SANDPIPER** single at Balevullin *Tiree* on 20 May. **RING-NECKED DUCK** female at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 20-22 May. **TURTLE DOVE** single at Gigha *Gigha* on 22 May. **BLACK-HEADED BUNTING** male at Tiroran *Mull* on 24 May. **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** a fem/2cy at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 May. **WRYNECK** single at Kinnabus *Islay* on 31 May.



Serin Kintyre Jun 2022 (J. Dickson)

~ June ~

GOLDEN ORIOLE male at Ross of *Mull* on 2 Jun. **GREAT WHITE EGRET** singles at Langamull *Mull* on 2 Jun and at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 & 16 Jun. **STOCK DOVE** single at Cornabus *Islay* on 3 Jun. **EUROPEAN SERIN** male at Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 6 Jun (first for Argyll). **ROSY STARLING** singles at Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 9 - 11 Jun , Fionnphort *Mull* on 24 - 25 Jun and Bowmore *Islay* on 25-30 Jun. **HOOPOE** single in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** adult from Oban to *Colonsay* ferry on 11 Jun. **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** a 2CY was at Loch Don *Mull* on 14 Jun and at Croggan *Mull* on 24 Jun. **GREENISH WARBLER** singing male east of Sandbank *Cowal* on 16 Jun. **RED KITE** single at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jun. **MARSH HARRIER** a fem/imm at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 25 Jun.

~ July ~

PECTORAL SANDPIPER a 2CY on *Tiree* on 8 Jul. **WILSON'S PETREL** single, at sea NW of *Tiree* on 20 Jul (first in Argyll since 1891). **MARSH HARRIER** female in central *Tiree* on 21 Jul. **BONAPARTE'S GULL** adult at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 29 Jun - 24 Aug.



Wilson's Petrel at sea off *Tiree* Jul 2022 (*T. Melling*)



Bonaparte's Gull *Mull* Aug 2022 (*T. de Clermont*)

~ August ~

LITTLE GULL a 2CY at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 7 Aug. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** single (1CYs) were at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 8 & 16 Aug, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 & 21 Aug and Balvicar *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug. **GREEN SANDPIPER** singles in Glendaruel *Cowal* on 9 Aug and at Loch Cuin *Mull* from 13-18 Aug. **SWAN GOOSE** two at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug. **MARSH HARRIER** singles at Loch Don *Mull* on 11 Aug, Kinnabus *Islay* on 11 Aug, Cornaigmore *Tiree* on 22 Aug, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug and the Laggan *Kintyre* on 29 Aug, with 1-2 present on *Islay* for much of the month. **HONEY-BUZZARD** a juv seen on three dates in *Kintyre*. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** sightings from *Kintyre, Islay, Mull & Tiree* with max. 200 south of *Islay* on 28 Aug. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** two-four at sea between *Islay* and Gigha *Kintyre* on 20 Aug. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** start of autumn influx of juvs, with one *Colonsay* on 27 Aug and 2 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug. **POMARINE SKUA** single off Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Aug. **PIED FLYCATCHER** single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 27 Aug. **QUAIL** single calling at Kinnabus *Islay* on 29 Aug.



Yellow Wagtail *Tiree* Sep 2022 (J. Bowler)

~ September

LESSER WHITETHROAT single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 2 Sep, then 3 there on 20 Sep. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** influx with max. of 16 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 4 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 5-6 Sep. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** singles from Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 3 Sep, past Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Sep and past Aird *Tiree* on 26 Sep. **GREAT SHEARWATER** two from ferry off *Coll* and *Tiree* on 3 Sep, then one off Milton *Tiree* on 7 Sep and 2-3 there on 8 Sep, when also 20,000+ **MANX SHEARWATER** and 250+ **SOOTY SHEARWATER** and also 300+ off Staffa *Mull* on 20 Sep. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** a juv off Milton *Tiree* on 4 Sep. **GREY PHALAROPE** single off Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Sep. **MARSH HARRIER** a juv remained on *Tiree* until 4 Sep. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** single juv at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Sep, 2 juvs there on 6 Sep, a juv

at Machir Bay *Islay* on 10 Sep and a juv at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12-14 Sep. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** juv at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Sep and 2 juvs there on 6 Sep, single juv nr Caliach Point *Mull* on 10 Sep. **LITTLE GULL** one off NW *Mull* on 6 Sep and 30 **STORM PETREL**. **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** a 1CY at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Sep. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** singles juvs/1CY's at Java Pt *Mull* on 12 Sep, Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep and a 2CY at Dunoon *Cowal* on 16 Sep. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** a 1CY at Sandaig *Tiree* on 13-14 Sep. **BARRED WARBLER** a 1CY at Balephuill *Tiree* on 13 Sep. **GREEN SANDPIPER** single at Mulindry *Islay* on 20 Sep. **LAPLAND BUNTING** single over Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Sep and two at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 28 Sep. **SABINE'S GULL** juv was off Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** two at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24-25 Sep. **RED KITE** single over Loch Gair *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Sep. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** juv at Baugh *Tiree* on 27 Sep.



'Siberian' Lesser Whitethroat & Firecrest *Tiree* Oct 2022 (J. Dickson)

~ October ~

PECTORAL SANDPIPER singles juvs on *Tiree* on 1 & 7-8 Oct. **MARSH HARRIER** a female Loch Gruinart at *Islay* on 1 Oct. **LITTLE STINT** juv at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Oct, **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** two 1CY's at Loch Indaal on 1 Oct and single on 7 Oct. **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** juvs on *Tiree* on 5 Oct, 7 Oct (2), 13 Oct and 26 Oct. **TURTLE DOVE** single at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 5 Oct. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER** juv at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 -12 Oct. **TREE SPARROW** two at Redhouse *Islay* on 7 Oct. **TODD'S CANADA GOOSE** three at Loch Gruinat *Islay* on 7 Oct, with 1-2 there and elsewhere on *Islay* on 12, 19 and 20 Oct. **POMARINE SKUA** four past Aird *Tiree* on 10 Oct, singles at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 14 Oct and at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 21 Oct. **POCHARD** male at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 12 Oct. **GREY PHALAROPE** singles from Colonsay to Oban ferry off *Mull* on 14 Oct and Port Wemyss/Portnahaven *Islay* on 15 & 17 Oct. **HOPOE** single at Croig *Mull* on 14-29 Oct. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Oct. **CACKLING GOOSE** single at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Oct which was seen at various locations on *Islay* to year end.

RED KITE ten together past Tayinloan *Kintyre* and 5 over Loch Frisa *Mull* on 18 Oct. **‘SIBERIAN’ LESSER WHITETHROAT** single at Arinagour *Coll* on 19 Oct and another at Balephuill *Tiree* from mid-Oct to 20 Nov. **VELVET SCOTER** female at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 21 Oct. **FIRECREST** single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22-24 Oct. **PALLID / COMMON SWIFT** unconfirmed reports of single ‘**PALLID SWIFTS**’ from Lephenstrath *Kintyre* on 21 Oct, Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 26 Oct, Kilchoan *Mull* on 27 Oct and Fionnphort *Mull* on 31 Oct. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** a 1CY at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 25 Oct. **COMMON ROSEFINCH** juv at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27-28 Oct.



Pallid Harrier *Islay* Nov 2022 (N. McMahon)

~ November ~

RING-NECKED DUCK male at Loch nam Druimnean *Mid-Argyll* on 1-3 Nov, then at Loch Scammadale on 6 Nov. **POCHARD** fem & juv male at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Nov. **PALLID HARRIER** juv at Machir Bay/Sanaigmore *Islay* on 6 Nov. **ROSY STARLING** juv at Vaul *Tiree* on 8 Nov. **BLACK REDSTART** singles at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 8 Nov and Largiebaan *Kintyre* on 13 Nov. **LEACH'S PETREL** single from Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 13 Nov. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** single at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 15 Nov. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** single found dead at Crossapol *Tiree* on 15 Nov. **WAXWING** singles noted at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 16 Nov, Fionnphort *Mull* on 20 Nov, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 20 Nov and at Carradale *Kintyre* on 23-24 Nov. **POCHARD** five at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 17 Nov. **LESSER SCAUP** juv male at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 17 Nov. **PALLID / COMMON SWIFT** unconfirmed **PALLID** at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 18 Nov. **GARGANEY** fem/imm at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Nov. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** single at Craignure *Mull* 27 Nov - 3 Dec. **‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF** single at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Nov. **POCHARD** female at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 28 Nov.

~ December ~

‘SIBERIAN’ CHIFFCHAFF single at Dervaig *Mull* on 1 Dec. **TODD’S CANADA GOOSE** and **CAACKLING GOOSE** singles at Kilmichael *Kintyre* on 3 Dec, then by Machrihanish airport until year end, and two **CAACKLING GOOSE** at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 13 Dec. **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** juv/ICY at Clachan Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec. **RING-NECKED DUCK** male and **POCHARD** male at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 12 Dec. **RED KITE** single at Dunbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec. **‘RUSSIAN’ WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** seven at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Dec. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** male at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 16 Dec. **SNOW GOOSE** three at Loch Cuin *Mull* on 22 Dec. **HARLEQUIN DUCK** fem/imm at Feall Bay *Coll* on 22 Dec. **WAXWING** single at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Dec. **SURF SCOTER** fem/imm on Loch Indaal *Islay* on 31 Dec.



Spotted Sandpiper *Mid-Argyll* Dec 2022 (*J. Waldie*)



Harlequin Duck *Coll* Dec 2022 (*B. Jones*)

Symbols and abbreviations

<i>ABR</i>	<i>Argyll Bird Report</i>
ABRC	Argyll Bird Records Committee
ARSG	Argyll Raptor Study Group
AOB	apparently occupied burrows
AON	apparently occupied nest-sites
AOS	apparently occupied sites
BBRC	<i>British Birds</i> Rarities Committee
BBS	Breeding Birds Survey
BOU	British Ornithologists' Union
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
b/3 <i>etc</i>	brood of 3 <i>etc</i>
<i>ca</i>	<i>circa</i> = approximately
<i>cf</i>	<i>confer</i> = compare
c/r	colour ring
<i>et al.</i>	et alia = and others
ff, mm	females, males
imm.	immature
inc.	including
juv./juvs.	juvenile/juveniles
Machrihanish SBO	Machrihanish Seabird Observatory
max.	maximum
min.	minimum
NNR	National Nature Reserve
nr.	near
pr	pair
SBO	Seabird Observatory
<i>SBR</i>	<i>Scottish Bird Report</i>
SBRC	<i>Scottish Birds</i> Records Committee
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
Taynish NNR	Taynish National Nature Reserve
SRMS	Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme
Ters.	Territories
TIARG	Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey
2CY, 3CY <i>etc</i>	Bird ages: second-calendar year, third calendar year <i>etc.</i>
>	Flying direction

Birds of Conservation Concern. (BoCC 5) was published in *British Birds* (December 2021 Vol.114) and the updated species status has been applied to this report.

RED LIST is the highest conservation priority with species needing urgent action.

AMBER LIST is the next most critical group followed by Green (not given here) species that don't fall into the Red or Amber category.

Systematic List for 2022

The following systematic list includes entries for 244 Category A and C species recorded in Argyll during 2022 (*cf.* average 223 species during the years 1993- 2021). This is the highest total ever recorded, significantly surpassing the previous record of 240 in 2012. Two new species were added to the list in 2022 - Serin and Dark-eyed Junco - and now takes the Argyll list to 371 species.

*All records are listed where 20 reports or fewer and marked with *. Observer's names are given for description rarities accepted by rare bird committees (ABRC, SBRC, BBRC).*

The species sequence, vernacular and scientific names have now been changed to follow the latest Scottish List (BOU/IOC v10.2, 2021) as provided on the current SOC website.

BLACK GROUSE *Lyrurus tetrix*

RED LIST A scarce, localised, resident breeder. Numbers still likely to be declining at a slower rate after a steep decline. Very thinly distributed in all mainland areas: with a few on Islay and Jura. All records required.

Winter/spring/breeding Most reports of only 1-2 birds from (sites) in; *Mid-Argyll* (5) *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (1). Max count of 4 at Feorlin *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Apr. A report of one at a site on *Mull* on 27 Apr.

Autumn/winter Only four reports, three probably involving the same group of birds in *Mid-Argyll* with a max 6 at Moine Mhor on 8 Nov, elsewhere 1 at Achallader *North Argyll* on 11 Dec.



Black Grouse *Mid-Argyll* Mar 2022 (*J. Lehmann*)

PTARMIGAN* *Lagopus muta*

RED LIST A localised resident breeding bird: generally above 800m in north and east Argyll and on Mull. All records required.

Spring/summer In Cowal 4 were on Beinn Narnain on 3 Jan and 1 on Beinn Ime on 22 Jun, while 1 was on Beinn Buidhe *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr. In *North Argyll*, 2 were on Beinn an Dothaid on 20 Mar, 2 on Beinn Odhar on 26 Mar and 1 on Beinn Fhionnlaidh on 6 Jun. On *Mull*, 5 were found on Ben Buie on 5 Jan, 2 on Beinn Talaidh on 20 Jan and 5 on Dun da Gaoithe on 23 Jan.

Autumn/winter On *Mull*, 2 were on Ben Buie on 15 Aug, 2 young were found on 17 Aug and 2 were at Gribun on 4 Sep.

An estimated population on Mull thought to be in the region of 25-50 birds (per Ewan Miles).



Red Grouse *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2022 (Ann McGregor)

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus scotica*

A sparsely distributed, resident, breeding bird. All reports required.

All year Reports from moorland areas on (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Few reports in total from across Argyll, all of 1-2 birds, except 3 noted at Loch na Craithraith *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr, 3 at Carn Breugach, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr and 3 at Glengorm *Mull* on 9 Aug. Two pairs noted at RSPB Oa Reserve where present in very low numbers (max 4 or 5 pairs) and a single at RSPB Ardnave reserve on 11 Feb.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Birds (some hybrids with Chukar *A. chukar*) have been introduced to several areas. Although this species is in Category C of the British list, populations in Argyll do not appear to be self-sustaining.

All year Reports from 7 sites in (*Cowal/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Most reports of just 1-3 birds, with no evidence of large releases in 2022.

QUAIL* *Coturnix coturnix*

AMBER LIST A *rare and irregular summer visitor: mainly to Kintyre and the islands.*

Autumn One calling at RSPB Kinnabus car park, The Oa Islay on 29 Aug.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

May be abundant, in those parts of Argyll, where birds are released for shooting. Reports from Jura and North Argyll are rare.

All year Reports from all areas, however generally under reported. Four pairs recorded, two with large broods, on RSPB Oa Reserve, where becoming increasingly common. Only a handful of records from *Coll* and *Tiree*, where they have become very scarce.



‘Pale-bellied’ Brent Goose *Tiree* Nov 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*

AMBER LIST A *passage migrant, in varying numbers: few in winter. Most birds seen in Argyll are of the Pale-bellied race B. b. hrota. Birds of the Dark-bellied race B. b. bernicla have occurred, mainly on Islay and Tiree, with less than 20 records. There has been one record of the Black Brant B. b. nigricans on Islay in winter 1989/90.*

‘PALE-BELLIED’ BRENT GOOSE (*B. b. hrota*)

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 108 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr, 34 at Bridgend *Islay* on 15 Jan, 24 >N at Port Mor *Colonsay* on

19 Apr and 20 at Glas Eilean *Jura* on 19 Feb. Elsewhere, 5 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 27 Apr, 2 at Miodar *Tiree* on 12 May and last report of 1 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 14 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First arrivals were 2 at Carnain *Islay* on 5 Sep, 1 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 5 Sep and 26 >S at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 6 Sep. Most passage through Argyll between 23 Sep and mid Oct. Max counts inc., 87 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 7 Oct, 35 >S at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 16 Oct, and 18 on Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep, with most birds away by early-mid Oct but some remaining at Bridgend Merse, Loch Indaal until year end with counts of up to 47 birds. Elsewhere, on *Coll* 7 >SW at Arinagour on 23 Sep, on *Colonsay* 1 on Oronsay on 12-19 Nov, in *Kintyre* 2 at Machrihanish SBO on 13 Oct and 1 at Rhunahaorine on 10 Nov, in *Mid-Argyll* 1 at New Danna on 16 Oct and on *Mull* 1 at Killiechronan on 8-11 Oct and 2 at Fidden on 27 Oct.

‘DARK-BELLIED’ BRENT GOOSE* (*B. b. bernicla*)

Winter/spring A single bird was with a flock of 108 pale-bellied birds at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr [J. Dickson] and 2 (adult with a 2cy) were off Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 May [J. Dickson].

RED-BREASTED GOOSE* *Branta ruficollis*

A vagrant: Two records; an adult on Islay, first seen on 27th Oct 2001 and another adult on Islay from Oct 2012 into Apr 2013.

Autumn/winter An adult at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and surrounding areas from 5 Oct 2021 remained into 2022, with a last report on 22 Mar. *Record was accepted by the BBRC.*

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

The resident population on Colonsay was introduced in 1934. Regular breeding has taken place since 1992 in Mid-Argyll in increasing numbers, with increasingly frequent breeding attempts elsewhere. A transatlantic origin seems probable for at least some of the medium-sized and small individuals seen in winter goose flocks on Islay and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most counts received from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (41), *Mull* (34) and *Cowal* (14). Max counts received of 620 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb, 168 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 157 at Gorsten *Mull* on 19 Feb and 119 on Lismore *North Argyll* on 18 Mar. Elsewhere, counts inc., *Colonsay* with 23 at Machrins on 28 Feb, *Cowal* with 46 at the Holy Loch on 27 Feb, *Islay* with 24 at Loch Gruinart on 5 May, *Mid-Argyll* with 800 on Luing on 4 Jan, *North Argyll* with 77 at Appin on 21 Jan, *Coll* with 15 at Cliad Beach on 23 Mar and *Tiree* with 3 at Balinoe on 12 Apr.

Breeding/summer Most breeding reports from *Mid-Argyll* at 14 sites, inc. 29 prs Reisa Mhic Phaidean on 1 Apr and 13 prs with 61 young Loch na Cille on 5 Jun. Breeding or prs also noted from; *Colonsay* with 6 broods totalling 33 young in May and Jun, *Jura* 10 broods on Glas Eilean on 18 May and AON at Dubh Loch, Lussagiven on 19 Apr, and sites in *Cowal* (2), *Mull* (10) and *North Argyll* (5).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts received of 400 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 21 Nov, 347 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, 200 at Fidden *Mull* on 4 Dec and 184 at Ardnadrochit *Mull* on 18 Oct, 234 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov, 100 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Aug and 117 at Achuaran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 5 Dec.

LESSER CANADA and TODD’S CANADA GOOSE* *Branta c. parvipes/interior*

Lesser Canada *B. c. parvipes* and Todd’s Canada *B. c. interior* are races considered by the BBRC. The race *parvipes* breeds W Alaska, E to Yukon Territory and most winter Washington and Oregon. The race *interior* breeds NE Canada from Hudson Bay to Baffin Island and NW

Greenland wintering in SE USA. *There is however some overlap in breeding ranges and variability in size and plumage of races, therefore separation is not always possible.*

Winter/spring On *Tiree* the returning Todd's type was at Balephetrish, Coraigbeg & Kenovay *Tiree* from 20 Oct 2021 in to 2022, with frequent reports around W of island and last noted at Coraigbeg on 31 Mar [J. Bowler *et al*]. In *Kintyre* a presumed returning bird was at The Laggan from 24 Nov 2021 and into 2022 with last report on 5 Apr [T. Lowe *et al*].

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 3 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 7 Oct with 1 remaining there until 12 Oct and other sightings of singles at Bridgend merse on 19 Oct and at Loch Kinnabus, The Oa on 20 Oct [J. How, D. Dinsley *et al*]. In *Kintyre* 1 (with a Cackling type) was at Kilmichael, N of Campbeltown on 3-5 Dec and again opposite Machrihanish airport on 17-23 Dec [T. Lowe *et al*].
Records subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

AMBER LIST *Approximately two thirds of the Greenland population winter in Argyll, mostly on Islay with smaller numbers elsewhere. Coll, Colonsay, Islay, and Tiree are sites of international importance for wintering birds of the Greenland population of this species. A few birds occasionally summer and a few introduced birds have bred on the Rinns of Islay.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal/North Argyll). Max Argyll total count (per NatureScot / International goose counts) of 40,036 in Mar. Max regional counts of 29,596 on *Islay* on 8-9 Mar, 6,580 on *Tiree* on 7 & 9 Mar, 720 on *Jura* on 7 Mar, 1,181 on *Coll* on 27 Jan, 1,616 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 27 Mar and 1,150 in *Mid-Argyll* (at Danna) on 5 Mar. Elsewhere, on *Colonsay* a max count of 630 at Mid Loch Fada on 19 Mar, 420 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Mar and on *Mull* 327 on Inch Kenneth on 16 Jan and 240 on *Iona* on 1 Mar. Most birds had departed by mid-Apr.

Breeding/summer Several reports of individual sick birds (HPAI) throughout the summer from *Islay* and also 8 were at Gruline *Mull* on 6 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). First arrivals of 41 over Balephuil *Tiree* on 26 Sep, 18 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Sep, 52 on 27 Sep, 4,095 by 7 Oct and a steady arrival giving 18,616 there by 20 Oct. Elsewhere, 2,760 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Oct. Argyll total count (per NatureScot / International Goose Count) of 41,290 in Dec. Max area counts of 31,785 on *Islay* on 21-22 Dec, 5,771 on *Tiree* on 21-22 Nov, 2,070 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 19 Nov, 937 on *Coll* on 18 Oct, on *Mull* 160 at Fiddon on 29 Nov and 270 at Gribun on 29 Nov, 506 on Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Nov and 800 at Ulva/Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec.

CAKCLING GOOSE* *Branta hutchinsii*

This species group has recently been accepted by the BOURC as a split from other 'Lesser Canada Goose' types. A transatlantic origin seems probable for most of these hutchinsii birds being from the Canadian High Arctic. The first accepted Argyll record was in 1984 and many subsequent records are still under consideration by the BBRC.

Winter/spring One was in the Gruinart area *Islay* from 12 Oct 2021 into 2022 with reports from Lyrabus on 26 Jan, Bridgend on 27 Jan, Coullabus on 8 Feb, Portnahaven on 19-27 Feb, Easter Ellister on 2-7 Mar, Gartnatra on 1 Apr and Neriby on 6 Apr.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 1 was at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 16 Oct with occasional sightings there and elsewhere until 1 Nov then a gap until reports (same?) at Leorin, N of Port Ellen on 2 Dec, Bridgend merse on 6 Dec and at Carrabus on 21 Dec. In *Kintyre* 1 was with a Todd's Canada at Kilmichael, N of Campbeltown on 3-5 Dec then 2 together with roosting geese (Greater Canadas, Greylags & White-fronted) on Lussa Loch on 13-14 Dec and 1 again opposite Machrihanish airport on 17-23 Dec at least. Records subject to acceptance by the BBRC.

SNOW GOOSE* *Anser caerulescens*

The small introduced population on Coll breeds on a small off-shore island and is now very sedentary and decreasing. Stragglers among wintering goose flocks of other species are probably often genuine vagrants.

All year The resident flock on *Coll* continues to decrease, with only 6 noted in winter/spring and down to 4 by Aug until year end. No recent reports of successful breeding within this ageing population.

Spring A 'white phase' bird was at Drumlemble, The Laggan *Kintyre* on 13 Mar to at least 5 Apr.

Winter Three were at Loch Cuin *Mull* on 22 Dec.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

AMBER LIST *A resident: with an increasing breeding population. Some may be native birds that have colonised from the Outer Hebrides, while birds of introduced origin breed in Mid-Argyll. Now that it is no longer possible to distinguish between them, WeBS refers to them as 'British/Irish' and identifies Tiree as a site of national importance. Migratory flocks are also reported from most areas.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. NatureScot / International goose counts in Mar gave an Argyll total of 6,535 and highest counts were on *Tiree* with 2,712 and in *Kintyre* with 2,609. Additional high counts of 2,943 total count *Tiree* on 11 Jan, 631 on *Islay* on 8-9 Mar and 270 at Dunadd *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Feb.

Breeding/summer Breeding reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*), but breeding reports patchy. Nesting noted from mid-Apr. First b/6 noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 May (large no. of broods there by mid-Jun), then 3 broods at Loch na Cille *Mid-Argyll* on 28 May, 9 prs with 40 young at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 31 May, a brood at Muasdale *Kintyre* on 31 May, broods at Salen *Mull* on 5 Jun, 5 broods on *Coll* on 7 Jun and from *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Gilp and Add Est. 57 broods reported *Colonsay*. Late summer counts of 3,823 on *Tiree* on 29-30 Aug (of which 33.5% of a sample were juvs) and 240 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 23 Aug. Moulting flock at Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* of only 50 birds inc. well grown young by 29 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max Argyll total (per NatureScot / International Goose Count) of 8,372 in Dec. Max counts of 3,198 on *Tiree* (all island) on 21-22 Nov, 1,439 on *Islay* on 21-22 Dec, 1,798 in *Kintyre* (exc Gigha) on 21 Dec and a count of 221 on Gigha *Kintyre* on 29 Nov. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 180 at Toberonochy, Luining *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct and 130 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 5 Nov.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

AMBER LIST *There are variable numbers on passage, with occasional large flocks, but relatively few overwinter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Small nos of 1-11 birds wintered in *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. In *Kintyre* up to 63 were in the Laggan from 27 Feb -5 Apr.

Return passage flocks >NW from 25 Mar with most reported from (*Colonsay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Higher counts inc., in *Kintyre* skeins of 215 over Carradale on 8 Apr and 144 on 27 Apr, in *Mid-Argyll* 300 >NW over Cairnbaan on 20 Apr and 79 over Loch Gilp on 14 Apr, on *Mull* passage between 28 Mar - 21 Apr with heaviest passage noted between 10-15 Apr and skeins up to 185 birds and on *Colonsay* 62 >NW on 25 Mar. Birds had moved through by 8 May. Surprisingly, no large skeins noted from *Islay*.

Summer No reports.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. First arrivals were noted on 14 Sep when 65 were at Craighouse *Jura*, 29 at Gruinart Flats *Islay* and smaller nos in *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*. On 15-16 Sep

a large movement, when on 15 Sep, 460 (at 2 sites) over *Mull*, 300 over *Milton Tiree*, 230 over *Coll*, 130+ over *Mid-Argyll* (at 3 sites), 240 over *Loch Gruinart Islay*, and 42 over *Port Rìgh Kintyre*. On 16 Sep, 365 over *Tiree* and 100 over *Loch Scammadale Mid-Argyll*. Generally, very light passage until late Oct with highest count of 16 at *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 22 Oct, thereafter only 1-9 birds noted from a few sites across Argyll in (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*) until the year end.



Pink-footed Goose *Mid-Argyll* May 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

RED LIST *Both the nominate European and the Greenland races have occurred in Argyll. The Greenland race A. a. flavirostris winters in a small number of traditional haunts and is also a passage migrant. Argyll holds about 50% of the world population of this race in winter and all the locations where they occur regularly are sites of international importance in the UK.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). NatureScot / International Goose Counts in Mar gave an Argyll total count of 8,109, with regional counts of 5,297 on *Islay* on 8-9 Mar, 1,717 in *Kintyre* on 9 Mar, 945 on *Tiree* on 7 & 9 Mar, and 145 in *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Mar. In addition, counts on *Coll* of 79 in Mar, on *Colonsay* of 103 in Jan, 20 on *Jura* on 12 Mar, 5 at *Loch Assapol Mull* in Mar and in *North Argyll* 108 on *Lismore*, 35 at *Appin* and 10 at *Benderloch* in Mar.

Autumn/winter First arrivals were on 7 Oct on *Tiree* with 23 at *Loch a' Phuill* and *Islay* with 13 at *Loch Gruinart*. Elsewhere, 5+ at *Kinnabus*, the *Oa Islay* on 11 Oct and on *Kintyre* with 33 at *Lussa Loch* on 12 Oct. Max Argyll total (per NatureScot / International Goose Count) of 8,155 in Dec. Max counts of 5,243 on *Islay* on 21-22 Dec, 1,913 in *Kintyre* on 21 Dec (excl. *Gigha*), 505 on *Tiree* on 21-22 Nov (inc 31 (9.6%) goslings from 293 birds aged, and 65 at *Cliad Coll* on 29 Nov. On *Colonsay* 108 were at *Mid Loch Fada* on 4 Nov, in *Mid-Argyll* 159 at *Ulva/Danna* and 2 at *Moine Mhor* in Dec, and 24 were at *Ardentiny North Argyll* on 24 Dec and 89 on *Gigha Kintyre* on 29 Nov.

'RUSSIAN' WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE* *A. a. albifrons*

The European/Russian race *A. a. albifrons* is a scarce visitor in small numbers.

Winter Seven (2ads + 5 juvs) were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 16 Dec and into 2023 [J. Bowler].
Record subject to acceptance by the ABRC.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

A widespread and fairly common breeding species on the mainland and Tiree: scarcer on the other large islands. Flocks gather at favoured localities throughout the year, especially during moult but in decreasing numbers in autumn and winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max counts of 30 on *Tiree* on 9 Feb, where max site count of 25 at Loch a' Phuill on 1 Jan and 9 Feb, 14 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jan and 12 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 2 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of up to 8 birds, with most counts of 1-4 birds.

Breeding/summer Confirmed breeding reports from (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*) but limited data received. On *Tiree* 14 prs at 9 sites in May and first brood (b/8) noted on *Tiree* on 2 Jun and a b/4 on 6 Jun. On *Islay* 2 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart with b/9, 1 pr (b/2) on RSPB Ardnave Reserve and 1 pr (b/2) at RSPB Oa Reserve. Elsewhere, birds at sites in *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (10), *Mull* (16) and *North Argyll* (2).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 45 (including 14 fledged young) on *Tiree* on 28 Aug, 28 at Ulva Lagoon *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Oct, 17 at Bridgend *Islay* on 8 Sep, 14 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct, 11 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep and 11 at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 6 Sep. On *Colonsay*, where scarce, 1 at Scalasaig from 4 Nov to year end.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

AMBER LIST A common passage migrant: smaller numbers wintering. Loch a' Phuill (Tiree) is a site of national importance for wintering birds. A few birds summer in most years and breeding has been recorded.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most wintering birds were on *Tiree* where highest site count of 121 at Loch a' Phuill on 24 Jan. A total island count of 128 on 12 Jan included 20 (15.6%) cygnets. On *Islay* highest count was 39 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 9 Mar and in *Kintyre* 13 were at Drumlemble on 14 Mar. Elsewhere, counts generally of birds stopping off to rest or flying over, with; 49 >NW over Craoibh Haven *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar, 40 >NE over Carradale *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, 30 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Mar and on *Mull*, 31 at Lochbuie on 24 Mar and 30 >N over Loch Don on 30 Mar. Elsewhere, several flocks of up to 27 birds >N mostly between mid-Mar and mid-Apr.

Summer/breeding No reports of breeding. Summering birds included, 4 on *Tiree* in May which remained all summer and on *Islay* 2 were at Loch Gruinart from May-Sep. A single injured bird remained at the Holy Loch *Cowal* all summer and up to 2 were seen at sites on *Mull*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals noted were 4 'new in' at Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 11 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 26 Sep, then more widespread *Argyll* arrivals from 29 Sep, with heaviest passage between 6-16 Oct, inc. 85 at Dervaig *Mull* on 6 Oct. Highest counts were on *Tiree* with 333 across island sites on 10 Oct. Also, a *Tiree* all island count of 108 on 21-22 Nov inc. 22 (20.4%) cygnets. On *Islay* only high counts received were 117 on the Rhinns on 4 Nov and a peak of 206 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 10 Oct. On *Mull*, 59 at Loch na Keal on 3 Nov, in *Kintyre*, 33 at Drumlemble on 3 Nov and on *Coll* 21 were at Totronald on 29 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20 birds.



Shelduck *Mid-Argyll* Feb 2022 (J. Lehmann)

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

AMBER LIST A *widespread, but not very numerous, breeding species around sandy coasts. The majority are absent from mid-Aug to late Oct when they migrate to moulting grounds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas, with most from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts on *Islay* of 125 at Loch Gruinart on 21 Jan and 24 at Bridgend on 3 Jan. Elsewhere, 20 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar, and in *Mid-Argyll* 16 at the Add Estuary on 29 Apr and 16 at Loch Caolisport on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). On *Tiree* prs scattered around coast in May. First broods noted; b/2 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 22 May, on *Tiree* at Salum on 1 Jun, on *Coll* b/2 at Gallanach on 6 Jun, on *Islay* b/12 at Bruichladdich on 8 Jun, on *Mull* 3 prs with 5 young Duart Bay 15 Jun, and in *Mid-Argyll* a b/10 at the Add Estuary on 3 Jun and 3 broods there in mid Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/North Argyll*). Only 1-7 birds at some sites late Aug-early Nov, then 12 returned at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Nov, with few birds back by year end with max counts of 12 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 22 Dec and 9 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, elsewhere 1-3 birds.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

An introduced species which has bred regularly, at Loch Eck (Cowal), in recent years. The present size of the Argyll population (whose origin is unknown) suggests that it may well now be self-sustaining.

Winter/spring Reports from (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). In *Cowal* two pairs were in Glen Lean on 28 Mar, 2 at Loch Tarsan on 28 Mar and 3 at Loch Eck on 18 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* 2 were at Braevallich, Loch Awe on 12 Mar and a male on Loch na Druimnean on 27 May, and a male was found in a garden pond in North Connel *North Argyll* on 30 Apr.

Summer/breeding No reports.

Autumn/winter Only one report received, with 3 at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug.

GARGANEY* *Spatula querquedula*

AMBER LIST *A regular spring visitor to Islay and Tiree and has bred in Kintyre in 1994, on Islay in 1997, and on Coll in 2004.*

Spring A pair was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 11 Apr, followed by a male at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Apr and 11 May, 2 on 12 May and a male on 17 May. Two males were at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 19 May.

Autumn A fem/imm was at the Holy Loch Cowal on 19 Nov [A. Ash]. *Record (as lone fem/imm) was accepted by the ABRC.*

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata*

AMBER LIST *A scarce and localised breeding species restricted to Islay and Tiree. It is more numerous as a passage migrant and winter visitor: also largely restricted to Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). On *Islay* a max of 65 were at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 18 Mar. On *Tiree* a max count of 20 (across 2 sites) during WeBS counts on 9 Feb and 7 Mar. Elsewhere, 2 were at Port na Luing *Coll* on 19 Apr -24 May and a pr was on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 -26 Apr.

Breeding On *Islay* 24 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart, with b/6 noted. On *Tiree* at least 13 prs across 7 sites, with broods seen at 4 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Coll/Kintyre/Tiree*). Max counts of 66 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Dec, 12 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 and 28-31 Dec, and one was at Port na Luing *Coll* on 12 Dec.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera*

AMBER LIST *A scarce but regular passage migrant and winter visitor with most recent records from: Islay, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree. Breeds sporadically on Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* a pair were at Druim Mor, Oronsay on 21 Apr. At Loch Gruinart *Islay* 1 was present in Mar, a pair on 18 May and a male on 6 Jun, and 2 were at Cornabus, The Oa *Islay* on 3 Mar.

Breeding At least 4 prs on *Tiree*. Fem with a fledged b/2 was seen at 1 site on 14 Jun, followed by a female with b/5 at another site on 11 Aug and 2 females with b/5 and b/4 at a third site on 15 Aug. A pr bred Oronsay *Colonsay*, with b/3 seen on 28 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). On *Islay*, 1 was on Loch Skerrols on Aug, 13 were at Loch Gruinart from 12 Oct, declining to 8 on 6 Nov, then 6 on 10 Nov with 2 remaining until 9 Dec. On *Tiree*, 8 were at Loch a' Phuill on 27 Aug with 12 there on 5 Sep, dropping to 3 on 14 Oct, and 2 at Loch an Eilein on 27 Oct.

WIGEON *Mareca penelope*

AMBER LIST *A scarce and local breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor to all areas.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 253 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Mar, 250 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 9 Feb, 182 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Jan, 148 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb, 95 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 14 Mar, 84 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 24 Jan, 80 at Pennygown *Mull* on 21 Mar and 62 at Loch Craignish *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 50 birds.

Breeding Probable breeding with prs noted on each of *Islay* (2), *Tiree* (3) and in *North Argyll* (2). Possible breeding at one site in *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First autumn arrivals with 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Aug and singles on *Mull* at Staffa and Tobermory Bay on 21 Aug, 11 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 27 Aug and 75 at Bridgend *Islay* on 3 Sep. Max counts inc., 421 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 16 Sep, 357 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 350 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 10 Dec, 343 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct, 291 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Nov, 178 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 22 Nov and 94 at Loch Laich *North Argyll* on 3 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across *Argyll* of up to 85 birds.



Wigeon *Mid-Argyll* Feb 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

AMERICAN WIGEON* *Mareca americana*

A rare visitor: 18 or more records.

Autumn/winter An adult male at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 2 Jan was presumably same male on *Islay* from 2021 (Loch Skerrols in Oct & Nov and Loch Indaal early Dec). *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

A common breeding, passage and wintering species

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 141 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 87 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Jan, 86 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 24 Jan, 74 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 25 Jan, 64 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 24 Jan and 53 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan.

Breeding/summer Reports from all areas. On *Islay* 44 prs were at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Broods noted at various locations between 22 Apr and 18 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 263 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 8 Nov, 200 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27 Nov, 122 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Aug, 102 at the Holy

Loch Cowal on 9 Oct, 86 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 12 Sep and 60 at North Connel *North Argyll* on 23 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of up to 60 birds. In *Mid-Argyll* 350 released birds at Ardinamir, Luing on 25 Aug and 158 at Ardencaple, Seil on 1 Nov.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

AMBER LIST *A very scarce breeding species on Tiree and a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor: regular only on Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay* and max counts of 126 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb decreasing to 46 by 9 Apr. On *Tiree* max counts of 2 at Loch Riaghain on 9 Feb and 2 at Loch a' Phuill on 9 Feb. Forming prs on *Tiree* during Apr.

Breeding Up to 6 prs at 3 sites on *Tiree*, with b/2 seen on 7 Jun and a female was seen at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* until 8 May, a male on 2 Jun and 2 on 17 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Coll/Islay/Tiree*). Most birds were at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with counts of 30 on 13 Oct, 61 on 10 Nov and 91 on 9 Dec. Only 1-3 birds at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* Aug to late Nov and 1 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 28 Nov.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

AMBER LIST *A widespread but uncommon breeding species: common passage migrant and winter visitor.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 1,073 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 364 on *Tiree* WeBS counts on 24 Jan with max there of 220 at Loch a' Phuill on 24 Jan, 205 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 14 Mar, 186 at Bridgend *Islay* on 3 Jan, 135 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 27 Jan, 130 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 14 Feb, 78 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 27 Feb, 63 at Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 57 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Jan. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1-50 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports mainly from (*Islay/Tiree*). At least 35 prs across wetland sites on *Tiree*. On *Islay* 7 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. Scattered prs noted from sites in (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 1,396 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 24 Oct, 1,100 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Nov, 468 on *Tiree* WeBS count (& 2 other sites) on 22 Nov, 239 on Oronsay WeBS *Colonsay* on 11 Dec, 118 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Oct, 100 at Port na Long *Coll* on 14 Nov, 91 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 2 Sep and 90 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec. Elsewhere, many counts across Argyll of 1-90 birds.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL* *Anas carolinensis*

A rare visitor: Thirty or more records since 1980, mostly on Islay or Tiree: some records may well involve returning individuals.

Autumn/winter A male was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 16 Dec [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

POCHARD* *Aythya ferina*

RED LIST *An increasingly scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, in small numbers, particularly to: Tiree, Islay, and a few Mid-Argyll lochs. There has been no confirmed breeding in recent years.*

Winter/spring A male was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 11-17 Jan, a fem/imm was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Jan and 1 was at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 6-9 Mar.

Autumn/winter A male was at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 12 Oct, 3 there on 30 Oct and 5 (sex/age not stated) there on 17 Nov. A fem/juv and a juv male were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 4 Nov, and a fem was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 28 Nov. A male was at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 12-24 Dec.

RING-NECKED DUCK* *Aythya collaris*

A very scarce North American visitor: 33+ previous records.

Winter/spring A male & 2 fems from 2021 remained at Loch Bhasapol & Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* until 24 Apr, and a 2cy male again at Loch a' Phuill on 5 Jan only (last seen there on 17 Dec 2021) [J. Bowler *et al*]. A 2cy+ fem was at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 20-22 May [D. Jardine, I. Fisher, R. Boughton].

Autumn/winter An adult male was at Loch nan Druimnean, nr Kilmelford *Mid-Argyll* on 1-3 Nov [D. Jardine, J. Speirs] and re-found 7 kms NE at Loch Scammadale *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Nov [J. Waldie *et al*]. An adult male was at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 12-24 Dec [A. Ash, J. Dickson, D. Jardine]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

A widespread winter visitor: most numerous on Islay and Tiree. Breeds in small numbers on: Colonsay, Islay, Mull, and Tiree with scattered pairs found throughout mainland Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Highest nos were on *Tiree* and max total of 85 at WeBS sites on 24 Jan and 9 Feb and a max site count of 70 at Loch a' Phuill on 24 Jan. On *Islay* max counts of 32 from Loch Gorm on 19 May and 24 at Loch Skerrols on 3 Jan. In *Mid-Argyll* max counts of 8 at Ardencaple, Seil on 4 Jan and 6 at Dubh Loch, Glen Shira on 20 Jan and 26 Feb. Max counts on *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (4), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (4).

Breeding On *Tiree* a good season with 15+ yng in 7 broods noted (max b/8) late Jun-Aug. On *Islay* at least one pair fledged young at RSPB Ardnave, no data from Loch Gorm however a count of 35 there on 17 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* a juv was at Balvicar, Seil on 24 Aug and 4 were at Loch Assapol *Mull* on 4 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Max counts of 75 on Loch Gorm *Islay* on 7 Sep, 75 at *Tiree* WeBS sites on 16 Dec, 12 at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec and 11 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 19 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-8 birds.

SCAUP* *Aythya marila*

RED LIST A winter visitor and passage migrant with most winter reports at Loch Indaal, Islay but scarce and irregular elsewhere. Small flocks of migrants are sometimes seen during autumn sea-watches.

Winter/spring On *Islay* small nos at Loch Indaal Jan to 12 Mar at least and a max count of 5 on 10 Feb. A drake was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 23-25 May.

Autumn/winter On *Islay* 2 at Loch Indaal on 4 Oct and a max count there of 6 on 28 Oct. On *Tiree* a juv was at Loch Bhasapol on 29 Oct -4 Nov then a new juv there on 16 Oct joined by another on 17-18 Nov and 3 (ad m, f & juv m) at Loch a' Phuill on 16 Dec.

LESSER SCAUP* *Aythya affinis*

A vagrant: Six records; Islay in Nov 1998, Loch Leathan, Mid-Argyll in Dec 2005, Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Nov 2006, Loch Skerrols, Islay in Jan 2009, Loch a' Phuill, Tiree in Nov 2015 and a group of five at Loch Skerrols Islay in Nov-Dec 2021.

Winter Five juvs/1cy's comprising 4 males and a fem remained at Loch Skerrols *Islay* from 19 Nov 2021 with last bird noted there on 18 Mar. An additional female was observed at Loch

Skerrols *Islay* on 14 Feb and 18 Mar [J. Dickson, P. Roberts] making an unprecedented total of 6 birds at this site during the winter. Records were accepted by the BBRC.

Autumn/winter A juv male was at Loch Bhasapol *Tiree* on 17 Nov [J. Dickson]. *Record subject to acceptance by the BBRC.*

In the UK fewer have been recorded in recent years and it was readmitted on to the BBRC species list however this group of six birds is the most ever encountered at one site in Britain and was also part of a mini-influx into the UK & Europe during Nov-Dec 2021.



Lesser Scaup (left) with **Tufted Duck** *Tiree* Nov 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

AMBER LIST A resident breeding bird: common on all suitable coasts, especially on the Clyde. The Firth of Clyde is a site of national importance for Eiders. Large flocks of moulting drakes and first-year birds gather at some sites during Jun to Sep.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 245 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, 175 at Crarae *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan, 175 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 29 May, 159 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Mar, 60 at Blaimore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 23 Feb and 58 at Bruichladdich *Islay* on 10 May. Elsewhere, many counts of up to 50 birds.

Breeding Breeding reports from all areas. First brood noted at Glen Aros *Mull* on 3 Jun, a b/3 at Cnoc na-Eireige *Kintyre* on 4 Jun, a b/4 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 Jun, on *Tiree* creches of 11 young at Rubha Hanaish and 12 at Vaul on 9 Jun and b/4 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 15 Jun. Many coastal areas with females and ducklings in Jun-Jul. Post breeding flocks of 558 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 18 Jul, 218 Blaimore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 18 Jul and 123 at Rubha Glas, The Oa *Islay* on 18 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 275 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 12 Aug, 230 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec, 102 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Nov, 101 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Oct, 80 at Otter Ferry *Cowal*, 80 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 4 Nov and 61 at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 23 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds.

HARLEQUIN DUCK *Histrionicus histrionicus*

A vagrant: One record; a female was at Claggain Bay, Islay on 20 to 30 Oct 1987.

Winter A 1cy+ fem type was seen and photographed at Feall Bay, 3km W of Uig Coll on 22 Dec [B. Jones, M. Mitchell]. *Record was accepted by the BBRC.*



Surf Scoter (right) with **Common Scoters** Islay Dec 2022 (*J. Farooqi*)

SURF SCOTER* *Melanitta perspicillata*

A rare visitor: At least 20 previous records.

Spring Three 2cy birds, (2 mm & 1 f), were together off Rhunahaorine Point, Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 13-14 Apr. [D. Jardine *et al*].

Winter A 1cy fem was at Blackrocks, Loch Indaal Islay on 31 Dec and into 2023. It was with a group of 15-20 mainly female Common Scoters [J. Farooqi *et al*]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*



Velvet Scoter Mull Oct 2022 (*P. Walkden*)

VELVET SCOTER* *Melanitta fusca*

RED LIST *Scarce but regular in and around the Sound of Gigha, and in smaller numbers, at Loch Indaal, Islay. The wintering population in the Sound of Gigha is now much reduced from the population in the 1970s when over 50 were present.*

Winter/spring Two males were at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 26 Mar and 1 male there on 14 Apr.

Summer A male was again at Easter Ellister Islay between 8 May & 22 Jun. Presumably the long stayer of once captive origin nearby.

Autumn/winter An ad fem was at Loch Spelve Mull on 19 Oct -9 Nov at least, and also noted on Loch na Keal Mull on 21 Oct at least.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

AMBER LIST *Present throughout the year at Loch Indaal, Islay and in the Sound of Gigha, Kintyre - a scarce winter visitor elsewhere and very rare breeding reports.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree). Max counts by region of 150 at Loch Indaal Islay on 20 Apr, 119 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 16 Mar, 31 at Loch Caolisport, Ormsary Mid-Argyll on 14 Jan, 9 in the Sound of Jura on 16 Mar, and 5 at Milton Tiree on 21 Jan.

Breeding Six on 19 May, on Loch Gorm Islay, the site of successful breeding in 2021, was the only suggestion of breeding. A summering group of 72, mainly males, was off Rhunahaorine Pt Kintyre on 21 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree). Max counts by region of 94 at Loch Indaal Islay on 3 Nov, 56 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 8 Oct, 30 at Ormsary, Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll on 27 Nov, 3 at Iona Mull on 23 Sep, 4 at Ardmuckinish Bay North Argyll on 11 Sep and 6 past Aird Tiree on 27 Sep.



Long-tailed Duck Kintyre Mar 2022 (J. Speirs)

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

RED LIST *An uncommon winter visitor, most frequent in Sound of Gigha (Kintyre), Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Usually marine but occasionally seen on inland lochs. Occasional summer records.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Most reports from *Islay*, *Kintyre* and *Tiree*. Max counts of 8 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Jan, 6 at Laggan Bay *Islay* on 21 Feb, 11 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 26 Mar and 11 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 14 Jan. Also, single inland at Loch Eredine *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and single at Fishnish *Mull* on 14 Feb.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Coll/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First returning bird a single at Kyles of Bute *Cowal* on 14 Sep. Max counts of 9 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 31 Dec, 6 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 22 Dec, and 6 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 28 Dec. Elsewhere, only 1-2 birds noted at sites: a pair at Feall Bay *Coll* on 12 Dec, 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 8 Oct, 1 at Loch Don *Mull* on 22 Oct, and 1 at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 22 Nov.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

RED LIST A *common winter visitor: birds are regularly present in all areas from early Oct to late Apr with occasional summer records.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 52 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan, 50 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 24 Jan, 24 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 22 Jan, 18 at Loch Leathan *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Mar, 13 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 26 Feb, 12 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Feb & 4 Mar and a late group of 5 males and 5 fems at Killiechronan *Mull* on 30 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura*). First of autumn were 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Oct. Max counts of 91 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec, 34 on *Tiree* on 16 Dec, 19 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 10 Dec, 16 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Dec and 12 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Dec. Elsewhere, widespread reports of 1-10 birds. *Generally, nos have been steadily declining in recent years.*

SMEW* *Mergellus albellus*

A rare winter visitor: About 11 records since 1954; last records were at Loch Riaghain, Tiree on 31 May 2021, Loch Poit na h-I (Pottie), Mull on 16 May 2004 and off Bowmore, Islay on 21 Dec 2012.

Winter A fem/imm was at Loch Ulagadale *Kintyre* on 10 Feb [R. Evetts]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

A scarce breeding species mainly in: Cowal, Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. The population is more widespread in winter but in small numbers.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (23) and *Mid-Argyll* (15). Max count of 17 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 27 Jan. Elsewhere, most counts were of 1-4 birds. On *Islay* 2 were at Aros Bay on 25 Feb and singles there on 23 Jan and Bowmore on 5 Feb and Loch Skerrols on 22 Feb.

Summer/breeding Reports of prs from sites in (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). First b/4 was noted at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 19 Jun. 12 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 26 May were thought to be failed breeders. Post breeding flocks of 48 were at Hunter's Quay, Dunoon *Cowal* on 28 Jun and 39 at Braevallich *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Most reports of 1-4 birds with max counts of 18 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Oct, 15 at Loch Arail *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Nov, 10 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep, 6 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct & 29 Nov and 6 at Aros *Mull* on 10 Sep.



Goosander Mull Sep 2022 (P. Walkden)

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

AMBER LIST A common resident breeder: large moulting flocks gather, particularly in Loch Indaal, Islay and Sound of Gigha, Kintyre during late summer. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre is a site of national importance for wintering birds. Small numbers are found on fresh water.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 111 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 13 Apr, 43 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 19 Feb, 37 at Craignure Mull on 26 May, 32 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr and 27 at Loch na Keal Mull on 16 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of up to 20 however most flocks were fewer than 10.

Breeding Breeding around much of the Argyll coastline, however limited data received. On Tiree 13 prs from 5 sites in May with broods noted there from 7 Jul. Elsewhere, 3 broods with 11 young at Arinagour Coll on 13 Jul, b/5 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 22 Aug and in Mid-Argyll broods noted at Add Estuary (3), Ardfarn (b/6), Glendarroch (b/2) and New Danna (b/4) from 16 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 211 (post breeding moult flock) at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 12 Aug, 91 at Loch Indaal Islay on 29 Sep, 56 at Duart Bay Mull on 17 Aug, 41 at Loch na Keal Mull on 21 Oct, 34 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 11 Oct, 32 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 16 Oct and 31 at Loch Don Mull on 22 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of up to 30.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR* *Caprimulgus europaeus*

AMBER LIST A rare and irregular summer visitor and passage migrant: has bred in the past in Kintyre and Cowal. Last accepted record was at Glen Forsa, Mull on 3 Aug 2010.

Spring One was heard churring and sound recorded in the Lochdon area Mull on 1 Jun [A. Bayes]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

SWIFT *Apus apus*

RED LIST A summer visitor, breeding locally on the mainland: wandering birds and passage migrants may occur anywhere.

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (Coll/Jura). Arrivals were slightly later than in 2021 with the first one at Innellan Cowal on 3 May, followed by singles on 8 May at Kilmartin

and Bridgend (both *Mid-Argyll*) the following day and one in Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 11 May and most arrivals shortly afterwards. Reports from sites in each area were; *Colonsay* (3), *Islay* (7), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (25), *Mull* (17), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (3). Out-with known nesting areas, max count was of 12 feeding over Caimbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun.

Breeding Provision of nest boxes appears to be assisting this species, with 16 pairs found in Taynuilt *Mid-Argyll*. Elsewhere in *Mid-Argyll* 2 prs bred, rearing 5 young (b/3 & b/2) at the Kilmichael Glassary boxes, 10 over Lochgilphead on 1 July, 10+ over Oban on 16 Jul, 6 at Portsonachan on 5 Jul and 6 at Kilmartin on 10 Jul. 2 nests were found at Carrick Castle *Cowal* on 2 Jul and 6 were at Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 10 Jul.

Autumn Most birds had departed by early Aug after which the only reports were: 2 at the Oa *Islay* on 12 Aug, 2+ Glen Gorm *Mull* on 13 Aug, 1 Kiloran Meadow *Colonsay* on 17 Aug, followed by 1 on 4 Sep, then 2 on 5 Sep at Caliach Point *Mull*, then singles on 7 Sep on *Mull* and *Islay*, with 7 at Meningie *Tiree* on 8 Sep the last. *The identity of later swifts was not conclusive (see below).*

SWIFT *Apus apus* / **PALLID SWIFT*** *Apus pallidus*

No previous records of Pallid Swift in Argyll.

Autumn Singles were at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 22 Oct, at Ronachan Point *Kintyre* on 26 Oct, at Kilchoan *Mull* on 27 Oct, at Kintra *Mull* on 31 Oct and at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 18 Nov. Although some of these birds were strongly suspected of being Pallid Swift only brief sightings were made and no conclusive photographs were obtained to help identification.

Late Oct – early Nov 2022 saw an influx of over 80 Common/Pallid Swifts to Britain following a southerly airstream, several of which reached Scotland, some of which were confirmed as Pallid Swifts.



Cuckoo *Mid-Argyll* May 2022 (*J. Speirs*)

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

RED LIST A *a common summer visitor that is more frequent and widespread on the mainland: less numerous on the outer islands.*

Spring Reports from all areas. Apart from an early bird reported at Portsonachan *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar, the first arrivals were slightly later than 2021 with singles at Craignure GC *Mull* and Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, Loch Frisa *Mull* and Loch Avich *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr and Strachur *Cowal* on 15 Apr the first reported in each area, followed by scattered reports until a notable increase from 20 Apr onwards.

Breeding Calling birds reported from sites in; *Coll* (7), *Colonsay* (7), *Cowal* (17), *Islay* (18), *Jura* (4), *Kintyre* (10), *Mid-Argyll* (21), *Mull* (75), *North Argyll* (14) and *Tiree* (4). Some 'larger sites' had numerous reports e.g. at least 5 males calling at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and 12 calling males on *Colonsay*.

Autumn Most adults had departed by late Jun. Numbers of reports received by month; Jun (53), Jul (7), Aug (3) and Sep (3). The late reports were all juvs: 1 at Inver *Jura* on 20 Aug, 1 at Dalmally Bridge *North Argyll* on 27 Aug which remained until 7 Sep, 1 at Croig *Mull* on 29 Aug, 1 in Glen Bellart *Mull* on 11-12 Sep and finally two at Loch an Torr *Mull* on 16 Sep.

ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

A resident breeder except in Cowal: concentrated on the islands and in Kintyre. Large flocks often gather on arable fields out-with the breeding season. The genetic integrity of most populations is now in doubt because of interbreeding with feral pigeons. Those on the islands being probably nearest 'pure' Rock Dove.

Winter/spring Reports received from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts of 60 at Sunderland Fm *Islay* on 14 Feb, 30 on Scarba *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar and 12+ at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 31 May. Surprisingly no higher counts received from *Islay* or *Mull*.

Summer/breeding No specific breeding data received. Scattered nesting prs noted on *Tiree* inc. 4 prs at the RSPB Reef reserve. Higher post breeding counts inc., 70 at Knock *Mull* on 8 Aug and 55 on Iona *Mull* on 31 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Kintyre/North Argyll*). Max counts of 280 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 210 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 6 Oct, 140 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 23 Oct, 80 at Knock *Mull* on 13 Oct, 50 at Slievemore *Islay* on 24 Oct, 45 at Port na Luing *Coll* on 18 Oct and 45 at Kiloran Dunes *Colonsay* on 27 Aug.

FERAL PIGEON

Feral Pigeons are recorded from most areas, although less so from the island regions where Rock Doves predominate, and higher numbers are found in towns but there is little information on population size.

Higher counts mainly from the larger towns in Argyll with max counts of 50 in Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar and smaller flocks in Dunoon *Cowal*. A flock at Islandadd Bridge, Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* had increased to a max 105 on 19 Sep.

STOCK DOVE* *Columba oenas*

AMBER LIST ***A very scarce and decreasing local resident: only regularly reported from Cowal and Mid-Argyll in recent years. All records required please.***

Winter/spring Singles were at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Feb, at Dunamuck Cottage *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar (these locations are just to N of the Moine Mhor in the Kilmartin valley), on Oronsay *Colonsay* on Apr 23, at Skyran, nr Dervaig *Mull* on 31 May and at Cornabus, Oa *Islay* on 3 Jun. First record on Oronsay, and only the fourth for *Colonsay*.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus*

AMBER LIST A *common resident breeding species: less numerous on Mull, scarce on Coll, and rare on Tiree. Large flocks which form on the mainland in winter may include immigrants.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 12 at Cullipool, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar and 12 at Loch Gruinart RSPB *Islay* on 9 Mar. Counts elsewhere of 1-10 birds, inc. one on A'Chuli, Garvellachs *Mid-Argyll* on 31 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data received, but 3 singing Crarae Gdns *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May and at least 4 prs RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve *Islay*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 19 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 14 Aug and 35 at Loch Arail *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Nov. Only 1-8 birds reported at sites elsewhere, inc. one at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Nov.



Turtle Dove *Gigha, Kintyre May 2022 (K. Helm)*

TURTLE DOVE* *Streptopelia turtur*

RED LIST A *scarce but almost annual passage migrant: most frequently recorded during May and Jun.*

Spring One was in a garden at Gigha, *Gigha Kintyre* on 22-23 May.

Autumn One was reported from the Loch Gorm area *Islay* on 5 Oct.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

A widespread but sparsely distributed species throughout Argyll usually associated with human settlement. It is resident at many locations however is mainly a late spring migrant or summer visitor to some islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Under reported and generally recorded as ‘present’. Like 2021 only low nos noted. Max counts of only 10 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Mar, 6 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. Max counts received; 12 at Salen *Mull* on 8 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max counts of 41 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov and 30 at Druimachro, Gigha *Kintyre* on 6 Oct.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

AMBER LIST A secretive and under-recorded resident: occurs at low density on the mainland but in larger numbers on the outer islands. Immigration is thought to occur in winter.

Winter/spring Reports of only 1-2 birds from most areas at 19 sites except (*Coll/Jura*), with max counts of 6 at Erasaid *Islay* on 18 Apr and 5 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 16 Mar.

Summer/breeding Birds heard calling in suitable breeding areas from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (4), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (3). On *Islay* at least 9 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. *Under recorded*.

Autumn/winter Reports at 22 sites from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 5 at Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 4 Nov, 5 at Ardantrive reedbed, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov and 4 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 14 & 18 Oct and counts of 1-2 birds elsewhere.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

RED LIST A localised summer visitor, now breeding mainly on: Coll, Colonsay, Iona (Mull), Islay and Tiree. Following recent conservation activities, a long-term decline in numbers has being reversed, although numbers have been fluctuating recently.

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). First arrivals were singles at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Apr, Portnahaven *Islay*, Mannal *Tiree* and Totronald *Coll* on 18 Apr, and Carnduncan *Islay* on 19 Apr. Most arrivals were during last week of Apr and early May.

Summer/breeding Calling male counts: *Tiree* (273), *Coll* (47), *Islay* (32), *Colonsay/Oronsay* (31) and *Iona* (14). An Argyll total of 397, cf. totals of 383 in 2021, 416 in 2020, 439 in 2019, and an Argyll peak of 702 in 2014 (*per RSPB*).

Autumn/winter Late singles noted at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4 Sep, on *Islay* at Kinnabus on 16 Sep and Kildalton on 24 Sep and 2 were flushed while mowing on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Sep.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

AMBER LIST A localised, sparsely distributed, resident breeding species: most numerous on Islay and in Mid-Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from 28 sites except (*Jura/Kintyre*). Most reports of 1-2 birds and a max count of 5 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 25 Apr. On *Tiree* 2 ads were at Loch Bhasapol on 24 Jan.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Tiree*). Reports from only one site in *Coll* where b/7 reported. On *Colonsay* 2 prs reared young at East Loch Fada

and Kiloran Meadow. On *Islay* 4 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Mid-Argyll* becoming more regular at the Ardishaig and Crinan ends of the Crinan Canal and 3 broods noted on Seil. Young reported from 2 sites on *Mull*. In *North Argyll* a pr with chick on Loch Shuna on 9 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/Tiree*). Max counts of 11 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Nov and 7 at Loch Balnagown, Lismore *North Argyll* on 29 Oct with most reports of 1-3 birds from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (11), *Mull* (2), and *North Argyll* (2). Generally, under recorded in some mainland regions.

COOT* *Fulica atra*

A former scarce and irregular breeder and an uncommon winter visitor.

Winter/spring No records.

Summer One was at Heylipoil church lochan *Tiree* on 1 May.

Autumn/winter A juv was at Loch Turraman *Colonsay* during 28 Aug -17 Oct at least, singles at Loch Ballygrant *Islay* on 1-8 Nov, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Nov, and at Loch Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Dec.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A local breeder in small numbers: widespread in sheltered coastal waters in winter with concentrations at Loch Etive, North Argyll and at Loch Sween, Mid-Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from (*Cowal, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Mull*). Max counts of 10 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 25 Jan, 9 at Loch a' Chumhainn, Dervaig *Mull* on 21 Jan and 6 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 25 Mar. Many coastal sites held 1-5 birds.

Breeding Limited breeding data, present on many suitable lochs. Two prs on Lochan Shuna *North Argyll* on 9 Jul had b/3 and b/2. Adult with juv at Canal Loch *Coll* on 2 Jun, two broods noted on *Colonsay* and on *Islay*, a nest found at Loch Finlaggan on 2 May and 2 prs bred at RSPB Loch Gruinart Reserve.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 18 at Clachan Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Dec, 11 at Kilslevan *Islay* on 8 Nov, 9 at Loch Don *Mull* on 12 Nov and 6 at West Tarbert, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 31 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of 1-5 at coastal sites.



Pied-billed Grebe *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2022 (*J. Speirs*)

PIED-BILLED GREBE* *Podilymbus podiceps*

A vagrant: Three records; one at Loch Peallach, Mull in Jun 1998, one at Salen Bay, Mull on 22 Mar to 6 Apr 2011 and a long stayer/returning male at Loch Feorlin, Mid-Argyll from at least 2014 until 2021 and paired with a Little Grebe producing one young in 2017.

All year Adult male was again at Loch Feorlin Mid-Argyll noted from 3 Jan to at least 24 Oct.

Record accepted by BBRC as a returning bird.



Great Crested Grebe Cowal Feb 2022 (Alistair McGregor)

GREAT CRESTED GREBE* *Podiceps cristatus*

An uncommon winter and passage visitor: with 1-8 records annually since 1984 and recorded in all months except Jun.

Winter/spring Three were off Blairmore, Loch Long Cowal on 10 Jan, 4 there on 11 Jan, rising to a notable high count of 12 (photographed) together there on 3 Feb, then 3 on 23 Feb.

Autumn/winter Singles were at Sandbank, Holy Loch Cowal on 8 Sep, Loch na Keal Mull on 2 Oct, at mouth of Campbeltown Loch Kintyre on 3 Nov, off Inveraray Mid-Argyll on 3 Nov, then 4 off Gairletter Point, Loch Long Cowal on 11 Dec and 2 there on 31 Dec.



Slavonian Grebe Kintyre Apr 2022 (J. Dickson)

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

RED LIST *A regular winter and passage visitor to sea lochs and sounds: occasionally on inland waters. The Sound of Gigha, Loch na Keal, Mull and Loch Indaal, Islay are sites of national importance for wintering birds.*

Winter/spring Reports from (Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). Max counts in each region of 26 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 27 Mar, 60 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 26 Mar, 7 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and 26 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Jan. A single was on Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 -16 Mar.

Autumn/winter Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). First arrival was of 1 at the Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Aug. Max counts in each region of 39 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Nov, 20 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Nov, 14 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Oct, 2 on Loch Fiart, Lismore *North Argyll* on 29 Oct, and singles on *Tiree* at Loch Bhasapol on 6 -10 Oct and Blairmore Fm, Loch Long *Cowal* on 11 Dec.

STONE-CURLEW* *Burhinus oedicephalus*

RED LIST *A vagrant: Two records. One at Loch Gruinart Flats, Islay on 23-24 May 1997 and one at Ross of Mull on 19 Apr 2020.*

Spring One was at Balinoe, near the campsite *Tiree* on 10 May [K. Brockie]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread and common breeding species: in all recording areas. Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and numbers often rise noticeably during spring and autumn passage.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 323 (across four sites) on *Tiree* on 14 Mar, 250 Machrihanish GC *Kintyre* on 14 Mar, 241 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 25 Jan, 179 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Jan, 165 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 104 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Feb, 94 at Calgary *Mull* on 21 Jan and 90 at Gartnatra *Islay* on 14 May.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from all Argyll areas. On *Islay* 21 prs at RSPB Ardnave, 34 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 6 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* 28 prs in the wetland compartments at The Reef and first chicks noted on 31 May at Loch a' Phuill. On *Mull* 12+ prs on the Treshnish Is.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 307 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Nov, 270 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Sep, 265 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 31 Dec, 161 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Aug, 155 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 14 Aug, 135 at Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Aug and 83 at Blairmore, Loch Long *Cowal* on 11 Dec.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

RED LIST *A localised breeder and widespread wintering species: numbers highest on Tiree and Islay.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Jura). Highest nos on *Tiree* and *Islay*. Max counts of 2,710 on *Tiree* all island counts on 11-12 Jan, 400 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 2 Jan, 200 at Erraid *Mull* on 17 Jan and 112 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 17 Jan. In Argyll regions elsewhere, max counts of 60 at Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 31 Jan, 45 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Mar, 10 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Jan, 8 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Jan and 3 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 20 Mar & 2 May.

Summer/breeding On *Tiree* 40 prs in wetland compartments at The Reef on 18-19 May, with many on eggs from mid-Mar and first b/2 noted on 25 Apr. On *Islay* 128 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart (*cf* 148 prs in 2021) and 2 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve (*cf* 2 prs in 2021). On *Colonsay* (exc. Oronsay) 19 prs and 46 prs at RSPB Oronsay (*cf* 23 & 56 prs in 2021). Eight prs at Barloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb and 2 prs on Luing *Mid-Argyll*. Small nos of prs reported on *Mull* and in *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 2,480 on *Tiree* all island counts on 21-22 Nov, 500 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Dec, 320 at Machrihanish airbase *Kintyre* on 22 Dec, 185 at Breachacha *Coll* on 8 Sep and 130 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 22 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of up to 60 birds.



Golden Plover *Mid-Argyll* Mar 2022 (*J. Speirs*)

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

AMBER LIST A *moderate but probably decreasing number breed on moorland in several parts of Argyll. Large numbers are present at traditional sites by the coast in winter, also during spring and autumn passage, especially on Islay, Tiree, and Mull.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Large numbers on *Tiree* with 2,370 there on 11-12 Jan and increasing to 7,700 at the Reef *Tiree* on 5 Apr. On *Islay* 1,940 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 17 Feb, in *Kintyre* 1,050 at Machrihanish airfield area on 7 Apr and 200 at Strath Fm, the Laggan on 14 Apr and on *Colonsay* 200 on Oronsay on 18 Feb. Out-with the ‘island areas’ and *Kintyre* there were max counts of 100 at Aird Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Jan and 45 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 2 Apr.

Summer/breeding Casual reports, and under recorded, in likely upland breeding areas, with only one report (2 Ters) from *Mull* and 2 from *Mid-Argyll* and 4 from *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Birds were arriving back in early Aug e.g. 21 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 1 Aug, 1 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 4 Aug and 17 at Kinloch *Mull* on 9 Aug. Max counts of 2,620 on *Tiree* all island count on 21-22 Nov, 2,000 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 31 Dec, 250 at Machrihanish Links *Kintyre* on 13 Oct and 150 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 20 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-52 birds.



American Golden Plover *Tiree* Sep 2022 (J. Dickson)

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER* *Pluvialis dominica*

A rare autumn visitor: 31 records; all 2001-2021 and mostly from Tiree.

Autumn Two or perhaps three juvs. A juv (1cy) was at Baugh *Tiree* on 27 Sep [J. Dickson *et al*], another juv was at Barrapol *Tiree* on 5 Oct and presumed same at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 & 13 Oct [J. Bowler], then a juv at at Crossapol *Tiree* on 7 Oct [J. Bowler] thought to be the same as at Baugh on 27 Sep. Another juv at Barrapol on 26 Oct [J. Dickson] could have been a new bird or potentially the bird at Loch a' Phuill last seen on 13 Oct. *All records were accepted by the ABRC.*

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

AMBER LIST *An uncommon passage migrant, recorded most frequently in Kintyre and on the islands; also, a winter visitor in small numbers, mostly on Islay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Max counts; 9 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Feb and 2 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 22 Mar. Elsewhere, singles at; Loch na Cille *Mid-Argll* on 8-13 Jan, Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Mar, Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 24 Mar -26 Apr, Duart Castle *Mull* on 22 May and Gartbreck *Islay* on 4 Mar.

Summer One was at Fidden *Mull* on 25 Jun.

Autumn/winter First reports; 1 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 3 Sep and an ad at Bridgend *Islay* on 3 - 8 Sep. Max and higher counts; 13 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Dec, 5 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay*

on 12-15 Oct and 4 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-3, inc., an ad at Brock *Tiree* on 29 Sep and one at Scarinish *Tiree* on 30 Sep.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

RED LIST A *widespread and fairly common breeding species: present throughout the year.*

Flocks congregate at favoured locations outside the breeding season and especially on passage.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Winter max counts of 390 on *Tiree* (across 3 sites) on 2 Feb, 100 at Erraid *Mull* on 17 Jan, 40 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 23 Jan. Good weather during spring passage through Argyll during late Apr-late May led to lower numbers than some years. On *Islay* max counts of 238 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 9 May and 97 at Ballinaby on 19 May. On *Tiree* 110 (across 2 sites) on 20 Apr, a max site count of 350 at Loch a' Phuill on 15 May and counts of 160-280 birds at Ruaig, Traigh Bhi & Balephetrish in mid-May. Elsewhere, 80 at Breachacha *Coll* on 27 Jan and 66 at the Strand *Colonsay* on 24 Apr.

Breeding Limited data received outwith the RSPB monitored sites. On *Islay* 5 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve and 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Cowal* 4 prs at Lower Auchalick on 28 Jun. In *Kintyre* nest with c/5 found at Carskey Bay on 10 Jun, first young at Port Righ on 3 May and last b/3 at Carskey Bay on 17 Aug and on *Tiree* a last b/2 at Vaul Bay on 31 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage increased from early Aug. Max counts of 500 (across two sites) on *Tiree* on 3 Oct, 386 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep, 120 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 7 Nov, 100 at Cliad *Coll* on 3 Nov, 98 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 27 Aug and 90 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of up to 75 birds.



Dotterel *Tiree* Apr 2022 (J. Bowler)

DOTTEREL* *Charadrius morinellus*

RED LIST A *scarce migrant: mostly seen in late Apr and May. There are occasional breeding records in North Argyll.*

Spring A trip of 5 (1 m, 4 ff) was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on the early date of 11 Apr.

Autumn A bird heard calling at Gribun *Mull* on 4 Sep was thought most likely to be this species.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

RED LIST A regular passage migrant: usually in small numbers and mainly on the islands. More frequent in spring (Apr-May) than in autumn (Jul-Oct) and is recorded regularly in summer but rarely in winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Two reports of wintering birds: singles at Aros Castle Mull on 4 Feb and Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 17-30 Mar. First migrants; Salen Bay Mull on 11 Apr, 4 at Ardnave Islay on 13 Apr and 1 Barfad Mid-Argyll on 17 Apr, after which reports more widespread with heaviest passage in early May when 78 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 2 May, and on 6 May, 175 were noted on the Rinns Islay, 32 at Laggan Bay Mull, 18 at Southend Kintyre and 13 Carradale Bay Kintyre. On Tiree 54 were at The Reef on 3 May, 62 at Balephuill on 4 May, 65 at Loch a' Phuill on 11 May and 71 at Ruaig/Salum on 12 May and on Coll 13 at Breachacha on 14 May. 120 were at Ardnave Islay on 10 May, but thereafter counts were than fewer than 20. Last spring birds noted at Port Rìgh Kintyre on 13 Jun and Tiree with 1 until 30 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/North Argyll). First return passage with 1 at Torraston Coll on 6 Jul, and 2 at Craignure Mull on 17 Jul. At Frenchman's Rocks Islay 12 flew south on 19 Aug and 20 were at Port na Caillich Mull on 20 Aug. Elsewhere 4 were at Sorobaidh Bay Tiree on 5 Sep, 3 were at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 11 Aug and Port Rìgh Kintyre on 31 Aug, with all other reports of 1-2 birds. Wintering singles were noted at Salen Mull on 11 Nov, Skipness Kintyre on 25 Nov, West Tarbert, Gigha Kintyre on 27 Nov and Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 10 Dec.



Whimbrel Mid-Argyll Mar 2022 (D. Jardine)

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

RED LIST An increasingly rare breeding species in suitable habitat: more numerous on passage and in winter. All breeding records of this declining species are welcome.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 190 on *Tiree* (across three sites) on 2 Feb, 123 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 3 Jan, 110 at the Holy *Cowal* on 27 Feb, 81 at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 21 Feb. 61 at Gorsten *Mull* on 20 Mar and 60 at Bridgend *Islay* on 15 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-51 birds and most counts of 1-15. Most birds had departed wintering areas by mid-Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited data and under reported from upland areas. On *Islay* 15 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 3 prs at RSPB Oa Reserve. Birds in suitable upland areas of *Mull* and *Mid-Argyll* in late Apr -May. Two recently fledged young at Kilchatton, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 6 & 13 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Return passage from early Jul e.g. 150 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 28 Jul, 67 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Jul. 40 at Kirkapol *Tiree* on 26 Jul and 28 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jul. Max counts of 254 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Sep, 220 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 17 Sep, 110 on *Tiree* (at two sites) on 24 Sep, 102 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 29 Sep, 71 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 15 Dec, 61 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug and 52 at Loch Don *Mull* on 22 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds and most counts of 1-15.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

AMBER LIST A *mainly autumn migrant and winter visitor: the largest numbers occurring on Islay. Birds are also regular on Tiree and at a few other island and mainland sites.*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Max counts of 369 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Jan, 48 on *Tiree* (2 sites) on 17 Jan and a max site count of 47 at Gott Bay on 23 May, 31 at Gorsten *Mull* on 23 Jan, 16 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 22 Mar and 13 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9 birds. Up to 6 birds remained during Jun moving between Loch Gruinart *Islay* and Oronsay *Colonsay*. A leg-flagged juvenile ringed at Retvangen, Norway wintering and then summering on *Tiree* last seen 1 Oct.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First returning birds with 168 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Jun and 7 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 1 Jul. Max counts of 131 at Bridgend, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 8 Sep, 185 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Oct, 48 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 12 Nov, 44 on *Tiree* (3 sites) on 29 Aug, 21 at Gorsten *Mull* on 12 Nov, 17 at Scallastle Bay *Mull* on 15-18 Aug and 15 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-5 birds.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa islandica*

RED LIST A *regular passage migrant, especially on Islay, Tiree and south Kintyre with occasional winter records. Most Argyll records have been presumed to relate to the Icelandic race L. l. islandica but at least one individual of the nominate race L. l. limosa has been identified (a bird leg flagged as a chick in The Netherlands and seen on Tiree in 2009).*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). Wintering birds reported during Jan-Feb when up to 7 reported on *Tiree* at Loch a' Phuill and up to 5 on *Islay* at RSPB Loch Gruinart. First migrant report of an ad at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 21 Mar, followed by small nos in early Apr, inc., 6 at Loch Don *Mull* on 11-12 Apr and 10 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Apr. An influx started on 16 Apr when 1 was on Gigha *Kintyre* and 11 at Carradale *Kintyre*. The following day 69 were at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll*, 46 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 22 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* and 17 were at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 17 Apr. Nos peaked at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*, with 82, on 18 Apr, while on *Tiree* they peaked on 20 Apr when 200 were on *Tiree* (across 4 sites) with 111 at Loch an Eilein and also 111 at Loch a' Phuill, and then nos were well down across Argyll after 21 Apr. Up to 9 birds remained at several sites during May, with a few lingering in Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) during a weak passage. First arrivals of returning adults inc., 3 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 11 Jul and 35 at Ruairg *Tiree* on 25 Jul. Returning juvs noted from 19 Aug with 1 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*. Max count 96 on *Tiree* (across 3 sites) on 5 Sep, but decreasing to only 48 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 12 Sep, 7 on 16-19 Oct, 3 on 5 Nov and 1 remaining to 28 Nov. On *Islay* 36 >S at Port Askaig *Islay* on 20 Aug, with max count at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* of 30 on 8 Sep and up to 13 lingered there in Nov with the last seen on 9 Dec. On *Mull*, max count of 4 at Loch Don on 22 Oct. Elsewhere 5 >S at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 22 Aug and singles at Machrishaish SBO *Kintyre* on 16 Aug and 15 Sep and at Port Appin *North Argyll* on 14 Aug and at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 & 14 Sep.



Black-tailed Godwit *Islay* Sep 2022 (J. Dickson)

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

AMBER LIST A common and widespread passage migrant and winter visitor: mainly from mid Jul to early Jun. Mid-summer records are not unusual.

Winter/spring/summer Reports of 1-40 from all areas. Most high counts were from *Tiree* and max counts there of 130 at Greenhill on 9 Mar and 120 at The Reef on 7 Mar. Elsewhere, 60 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Apr, 49 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 21 Jan, 49 at the Cairns of *Coll* on 28 Mar and 45 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 25 Jan. Small nos, up to 4 birds, were still present at some sites into Jul when returning birds were arriving.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Counts slightly lower with max counts of 133 on *Tiree* (across two sites) on 12-14 Nov, 69 at Campbeltown Loch *Kintyre* on 25 Sep, 68 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Dec and 43 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 7 Dec.

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

AMBER LIST An uncommon passage migrant: mostly in autumn, and mainly on *Islay* and south *Kintyre*. A few winter, mainly on *Islay*, and occasional birds occur in summer.

Winter/spring/summer Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Max count of 300 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb. Elsewhere 2 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Jan-Feb and 8 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 22 Mar were the only reports. Some spring passage noted, of birds on *Colonsay, Islay, Mid-Argyll* and *Tiree*, inc. red adults, between 3 Apr and 17 May and a max count of 40 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 May. In summer, a few birds noted with 6 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 5 Jun and 15 on Nave Is *Islay* on 7 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). First returning birds noted at Loch Gruinart *Islay* with 4 on 15 Aug, followed by birds on *Mull* on 16 Aug; 1 at Aros Park and 2 at Salen, then 2 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 22 Aug and 2-3 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 26-27 Aug. In *Cowal* 2-3 were at the Holy Loch on 12-14 Sep and in *Mid-Argyll* 3 ads were at Loch Crinan on 1 Sep. Highest counts were on *Islay* where nos peaked with 50 at Loch Indaal on 3 Sep and on *Tiree* 11 juvs, inc. 6 at Loch a' Phuill, on 6-7 Sep. Birds had generally departed Argyll by mid-Oct, however 3 were on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 7 Nov, a single juv was at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 14 Nov and a single at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Dec.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

RED LIST An uncommon passage migrant with most records in autumn.

Winter/spring Reports from RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* with 1 on 27 Feb and 1 at Loch Riaghain *Tiree* on 23 Mar and a peak of 5 on *Tiree* on 6 Jun.

Summer/breeding Breeding was thought very likely at one site, but not confirmed. A male also seen at another site in Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Islay/Tiree*). On *Tiree* the first on 21 Aug, then 1-4 birds across island sites, a max of 16 (15 at Baugh, 1 at Balephetrish) on 10 Sep, with 8 still remaining on 13 Sep and 2 on 14 Sep, but then none until one at Balevulin on 3 Oct and the last single at Barrapol on 24 Oct. First 3 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 19 Aug with a max of 4 juvs there on 5 Sep and 2 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 8 - 10 Sep.



Curlew Sandpiper *Mull* Sep 2022 (P. Walkden)

CURLEW SANDPIPER* *Calidris ferruginea*

AMBER LIST A scarce but annual passage migrant: most records in autumn.

Spring/summer A red ad and a grey 2cy were at Rubha Chraignis *Tiree* on 5 Jun.

Autumn On *Islay* 3 juvs were at Loch Gruinart on 3 Sep, with a max of 16 juvs there on 6 Sep and last count of 5 there on 12 Sep. A juv was at Bruichladdich on 4 Sep. On *Mull* 3 juvs were at Loch Cuin, Dervaig on 3 Sep with a max count of 4 juvs there on 4-11 Sep. A juv was at Pennyghael on 9 Sep and 2 juvs were at Lochdon on 9 Sep. On *Tiree* a juv was at Gott Bay 2-17 Sep, 4 juvs at Ruaig 5-6 Sep, 1 juv at Loch a' Phuill on 6 Sep, 3 juvs at Clachan on 6 Sep, with 2 juvs there on 8 Sep, 1 juv at Caoles on 9 Sep, 2 juvs at Sorobaidh Bay on 8-12 Sep, 2 juvs at Balephetrish Bay on 10 Sep, with 4 juvs there on 11 Sep and 3 juvs on 14 Sep, 1 juv at Vaul on 5 & 8 Sep, increasing to 2 juvs on 9-12 Sep, with 3 juvs there on 14-17 Sep and 1 juv there to 26 Sep, 1 at Crossapol on 13 Sep and 1 juv was east of Salum on 26 Sep. Elsewhere, 1 was at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 27 Aug and 2 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug.

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

AMBER LIST A *mainly passage migrant, most numerous in Islay, south Kintyre, and Tiree. Regular wintering is confined to Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree. A few non-breeders occur on the islands in summer.*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Largest nos were on *Tiree* with higher nos Mar-May and max count of 570 (across two sites) on 23 May, when max site count occurred at 450 at Gott Bay. Elsewhere, max counts on *Islay* of 120 at RSPB Loch Gruinart on 17 Feb and 102 at Ardnave on 21 Mar, 26 were at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 15 May, 15 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 26 Apr, 20 at Crossapol *Coll* on 27 Jan, 7 were at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May and 5 at mouth of River Forsa *Mull* on 11 May. Last birds had moved through Argyll by mid-Jun when in *Kintyre* 27 were at Carskey Bay on 15 Jun and last 8 at Machrihanish SBO on 19 Jun,

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*) with first returning birds on *Tiree* on 11 Jul where max counts of 480 at two sites (Balephetrish Bay and Gott Bay) on 28 Nov and 410 at Gott Bay on 20 Jul. The proportion of juvs peaked at 24.2% on 12 Sep. On *Islay* 209 were at Loch Gruinart on 9 Dec and 125 at Bowmore on 7 Nov. Elsewhere, high counts of 171 at The Strand *Colonsay* on 12 Nov, 40 at Cliad *Coll* on 3 & 29 Nov, 21 at Gannha Gigha *Kintyre* on 25 Oct, 9 at Knock *Mull* on 20 Aug, 6 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov and 4 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Nov.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

RED LIST A *very localised breeding species mainly on Tiree. Numbers are highest on passage but large numbers winter on Islay and Tiree with smaller numbers elsewhere.*

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Cowal*). Nos generally low outwith *Islay* and *Tiree*. Max winter counts of 750 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Feb and 176 (across two sites) on *Tiree* on 2 Feb. Passage in early May was lower than some years. On *Tiree* passage peaked on 15 May when 250 at Loch a' Phuill and 120 at Sorobaidh Bay. On *Islay* 230 were at Loch Gruinart on 3 May and 289 there on 18 May. Elsewhere, peak counts of 40 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 6 May and 35 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May. All other counts of 1-27 birds. Most passage birds had moved through Argyll by 28 May, but still 131 noted on the beaches on *Tiree* on 14 Jun.

Breeding On *Tiree* 24 singing males in the wetland compartments at The Reef in Jun with first fledged birds noted from 6 Jul. Singing males noted at 4 other sites in May. Four were at Gallanach *Coll* on 15 Jun. On *Islay* at least 1 pr was at RSPB Ardnave and 1 pr at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Colonsay* 1 pr was on Oronsay and display was noted at a site in *North Argyll* on 2 May. No reports received from the usual upland areas of *Mull* and *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Return passage noted from 25 Jul when 630 at Loch Gruinart *Islay*, 85 were at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 4 Aug, 100 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 26 Aug, 34 at Ulva Lagoons *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug and 95 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Sep. 40 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 9 Sep was only report from this site. Max counts of 1,185 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 15 Sep and 232 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 14 Nov. Elsewhere, higher counts of 53 at Ardminish Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 29 Nov, 36 at Gorsten, Loch Don *Mull* on 13 Dec and 23 at Breachacha *Coll* on 14 Nov.



Dunlin *North Argyll* May 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

RED LIST A *widely, but sparsely, distributed winter migrant along rocky coasts from Sep to May.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura/North Argyll*). Max counts of 60 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 14 Jan, 49 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 8 Feb, 26 at the Cairns of *Coll* on 28 Mar, 20 at the Dutchman's Cap, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 26 Apr, 12 at Ardnave *Islay* on 19 Feb, 9 at Croggan, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 23 Jan, 6 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 13 Apr, 5 at Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Apr and 1 at Ardskenish *Colonsay* on 18 May - the last report of the spring.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First reports of returning birds were 4 at Frenchman's Rock *Islay* on 19 Aug the singles on 8 Sep at Dunoon *Cowal* and Scallastle Bay *Mull*. Max counts of 11 Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 10 Nov, with 15 there on 28 Nov, 6 at Ardnave *Islay* on 8 Nov, 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 22 Dec, 2 at Lismore Jetty *North Argyll* on 5 Dec and 1 at Gribun Sands *Mull* on 19 Nov.

LITTLE STINT* *Calidris minuta*

A scarce but annual passage migrant: with the majority of records in autumn.

Spring Single adults were at Vaul *Tiree* on 5 Jun and Crossapol *Tiree* on 7 Jun.

Autumn On *Islay* four 1cy (juvs) were at Loch Gruinart on 6 Sep with 2 remaining there to 13 Sep, then another there on 1 Oct. On *Mull* a juv was at Killiechronan, Loch na Keal on 8-9 Sep. On *Tiree* single juvs were at Traigh Ghrianaidh on 9 Sep and at Gott Bay on 15-20 Sep.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER* *Tryngites subruficollis*

A rare spring and scarce autumn visitor: at least 41 records of up to 55 birds since the first in 1971.

Autumn A 1cy (juv) was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7-12 Oct [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.



Pectoral Sandpiper Mull Sep 2022 (T. de Clermont)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER* *Calidris melanotos*

A scarce mainly autumn visitor: At least 66 records.

Summer/autumn A 2cy+ was at an inland site *Tiree* on 8 Jul [J. Bowler]. A juv was at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 5 Sep joined by another juv on 6 Sep [J. Dickson, P. Roberts *et al*]. A juv was at Caliach Point *Mull* on 10 Sep [T. de Clermont, K. Yates]. One, presumed juv, was at Baugh *Tiree* on 1 Oct [D. Jardine]. A juv was at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7-8 Oct [J. Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

RED LIST A widespread, but probably under recorded breeder. Numbers are augmented in winter by immigrants from Scandinavia and other parts of Scotland. A small proportion of native birds leave for Ireland and possibly elsewhere.

Roding birds are under recorded, and all records are welcome for this species, which is believed to have declined as a breeding species in Argyll, for the National Survey in 2023.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal/Jura/North Argyll). Generally, 1-2 birds from across 23 Argyll sites in Jan-Apr and a max count of only 3 at Ardow Burn *Mull* on 3 Jan. Considerable numbers are still shot in winter, but no details are available.

Summer/breeding Limited data received, with some reports (5 sites) from *Colonsay*, *Islay* and *Mull* of birds roding in late Apr - Jun. On *Colonsay* during survey at Colonsay Ho. & woodlands area there were 3 'registrations' of 3 birds on 24 Apr, 10 of 9 birds on 22 May and 14 of 14 birds on 23 Jun.

Autumn/winter No reports in Jul - Sep. Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). First report was of 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 Oct then other reports of 1-2 on *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree* in Oct. In Nov, 35 reports across Argyll of 1-4 birds and most sightings in mid to late Nov, then 9 reports in Dec, with a max count of 14 flushed on the Carradale to Kennacraig road *Kintyre* on 22 Nov, also 8 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Nov and 5 at The Oa *Islay* on 14 Nov. Only 5 singles reported in Dec.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

A scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, which is greatly under recorded: most records are from Islay, Mid-Argyll, and Tiree.

Winter/spring Very few sightings with a max of 2 at Ballinoe *Tiree* on 11 May, otherwise singles from sites in; *Coll* (5), *Islay* (7), *North Argyll* (1) and *Tiree* (1).

Autumn/winter First report was on *Tiree* with a single at Balevullin on 29 Sep followed by two at The Oa *Islay* on 7 Oct, where two were also reported to 14 Nov. Remaining reports were of singles from sites in *Coll* (2), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1), *Mull* (2) and *North Argyll* (1). *Under-reported; all records welcome.*



Snipe *Tiree* Sep 2022 (J. Dickson)

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*

AMBER LIST A *widespread and locally common breeding species: particularly on the outer islands. Higher numbers occur on passage and as winter visitors: mainly on the islands.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of *ca* 25 at Dervaig *Mull* on 9 Jan, 17 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Mar, elsewhere, 10 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 11 Jan and 15 on *Tiree* on 23 Mar. Otherwise counts of only 1-6 birds.

Summer/breeding Limited data but reported from all areas. Singing/displaying counts; on *Islay* with 39 at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 9 at RSPB Ardnave and on *Tiree* 75 at The Reef in Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Good nos on *Tiree* with max count of 450 at Middleton on 14 Nov, 103 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 30 Dec, 85 at Lussa Loch *Kintyre* on 30 Nov, 45 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 19 Oct, 25 at Ardnave *Islay* on 2 Dec, 20 at Killiechronan *Mull* on 10 Sep and 20+ at Dervaig *Mull* on 23 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of up to 15 birds.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE* *Phalaropus lobatus*

RED LIST A *very rare breeding species and irregular passage migrant.*

Spring/breeding Birds were noted at confidential breeding sites between 15 May and 28 Jul. Up to 15 breeding males produced at least 13 broods. A male was seen in flight from the Oban to Coll ferry, off *Coll* on 26 May.

GREY PHALAROPE* *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Irregular passage migrant particularly associated with autumn gales: rare in winter and spring.

Autumn One was off Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Sep, 2 were north of *Tiree* on 7 Sep, 2 were at Gunna Sound *Tiree* on 23 Sep, 1 was at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 16 Oct with this or another was found dead nearby at Currie Sands, Portnahaven *Islay* on 18 Oct and one was seen from the Colonsay to Oban ferry, in *Mull* waters on 15 Oct.



Common Sandpiper *Kintyre* Jun 2022 (A. Hand)

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

AMBER LIST A *widespread and common breeding summer visitor and spring and autumn passage migrant in small numbers: occasional mid-winter records.*

Winter No records.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals were around a week later than 2021, with 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 11 Apr, one at Loch Feochan *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr, 1 at Loch Kinnabus *Islay* on 14 Apr, and 1 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 15 Apr. Most arrival reports were around the end of Apr. Max counts of 6 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, 5 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 22 Apr, 4 at Lussagiven *Jura* on 19 Apr and 4 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 2 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data. On *Islay* 22 prs were at RSPB Oa Reserve in Jun. On *Tiree* increasing, with 17 prs at 13 sites in Jun, 13 AOTs found on *Colonsay*. Max counts of 7 at Ardachy *North Argyll* on 7 Jun and 5+ at Aros Castle *Mull* on 23 Jun.

Autumn/winter No reports from (*Jura*). Max counts of 5 at Ardalanish Bay *Mull* on 14 Aug. Generally, 1-3 birds at other sites, with 9 reports in Aug and 7 in Sep. Singles at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 22 Oct and one at Rubha Baile na h-Airde *Mull* on 24 Oct may have been the same bird seen nearby at Gribun on 7 Nov and at Gruline on 12 Dec.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER* *Actitis macularius*

A vagrant: four records; at Loch Indaal, Islay in Jun 1984, at Heylipol, Tiree in Aug 2009, at Ard Mor, Tiree in Aug 2016 and at Sorobaidh Bay, Tiree in Sep 2020.

Autumn A 1cy (juv) was at Clachan Seil, Seil Island *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Dec [J. Waldie]. *Record was accepted by the BBRC.*

GREEN SANDPIPER* *Tringa ochropus*

AMBER LIST A *scarce, but almost annual passage migrant, with majority of records in autumn.*

Autumn Singles were at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 30 Jul, Glendaruel *Cowal* on 9 Aug, Loch Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 10-20 Aug, Lochdon *Mull* on 20 Sep, Mulindry *Islay* on 20 Sep and at Port Rìgh Bay *Kintyre* on 9 Nov with perhaps same bird nearby at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 7 Dec.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

AMBER LIST A *A localised breeder, mainly on the islands: widespread passage migrant and wintering species.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Widespread at coastal sites, usually of 1-20 birds. Max winter counts of 78 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Mar, 59 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 20 Mar, 30 on *Tiree* on 21 Mar and 28 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 29 Mar. Only a light spring passage noted in Apr with 31 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr and 22 at Dervaig *Mull* on 19 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. On *Islay* 91 prs at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 18 ind. at RSPB Ardnave. On *Tiree* 43 prs at The Reef (wetland compartments). On *Colonsay* 7 Ters (exc. Oronsay) and 20 prs on Oronsay *Colonsay*. Three prs noted Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Passage noted in mid-Aug with 55 on *Tiree* on 15 Aug, 38 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 14 Aug, and 19 >S at Port Askaig *Islay* on 20 Aug. Max counts of 143 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 Sep and 105 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 9 Oct. Elsewhere, 28 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 24 Aug, 27 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Dec and 26 at Loch Laich, Appin *North Argyll* on 3 Dec with widespread counts of up to 25 birds.

WOOD SANDPIPER* *Tringa glareola*

AMBER LIST A scarce passage migrant and rare- irregular breeder: recorded in 22 of the 30 years 1980-2009, and majority of records in late spring.

Spring Three were at Loch Tulla North Argyll on 2 May and 9 May at least. On Tiree singles were on a pool at Balevullin on 20 May and at An Fhaodhail on 6 Jun.

Autumn No reports.



Spotted Redshank Islay Sep 2022 (J. Dickson)

SPOTTED REDSHANK* *Tringa erythropus*

AMBER LIST A scarce passage migrant, almost annual in autumn.

Spring A br/plum adult was at Laggan Bay Mull on 25-27 Apr [T. de Clermont *et al*].

Autumn A juv was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 5 Sep, joined by another juv on 6 Sep and another, perhaps one of these, at Machir Bay flooded fields Islay on 12 Sep [J. Dickson *et al*]. A juv was at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 12-15 Sep [K. Gillon, J. Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

AMBER LIST A scarce breeding species: only in Mull and North Argyll in recent years. A widespread migrant: more numerous in autumn than spring and regular winter records in some localities.

Winter/spring Reports from (Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). Most reports from sites in; Mull (42), Mid-Argyll (9) and Islay (8) and generally of 1-3 birds. Max counts of 9 at Lochdon Mull on 19 Jan, 4 at Kinloch Mull on 19 Jan and 4 at Loch Gruinart Islay on 17 Feb and 18 Mar.

Summer/breeding Breeds in small nos on Mull, Mid & North Argyll. Birds noted back in breeding areas from late-Apr in a few upland lochan areas. A total of 6 Ters reported on the mainland and one on Mull.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Return passage in many areas from mid-Jul with the first at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 7 Jul. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites and max counts of 17 at Loch Cuin, Dervaig *Mull* on 14 Jul, 13 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 11 Nov, 12 at Lochdon *Mull* on 16 Aug and 11 at Kinloch *Mull* on 21 Oct. On the mainland max counts were 11 at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 8 Aug, 7 at Ardencaple, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Sep, and 1 was at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on the same day.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

RED LIST *Normally a strictly marine species. The main breeding area is on Colonsay, with other colonies on Islay, Treshnish Isles and Tiree. Scarce in winter and very scarce inland. Breeding Kittiwakes are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 150 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 8 Apr, 350 Salen Bay *Mull* on 6 Apr, 500 off Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 14 May, and 30 >N at Point, Lismore *North Argyll* on 18 Mar and 42 >S Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 19 May.

Summer/breeding Breeding data from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). An excellent breeding season: at Urugaig *Colonsay* monitoring site there were 43 AONs (25 in 2021), at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 75 AONs (47 in 2021), on *Mull* 963 AONs on Lunga, Treshnish Is. (720 in 2021) at end Jun and at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* 604 AONs on 14 Jun (499 in 2021) where 780 large chicks on 12 Jul (mean = 1.67 chicks/nest n=256). No count available from Sanda *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Cowal*). Max counts of 1,650 from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 20 Aug, 890 (of which 70% juvs) past Laggan Pt *Islay* on 7 Sep, 1,250 off Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep, 1,140 past Caliach Pt *Mull* on 16 Oct and 1,400 >W past Urvaig *Tiree* on 4 Nov in 30 mins.

SABINE'S GULL* *Xema sabini*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant mainly in autumn.

Autumn A juv (1cy) was off north Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep [T. de Clermont]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

BONAPARTE'S GULL* *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

A vagrant: Twelve or thirteen previous records. More or less annual in recent years.

Autumn A moulting adult was at Fellonmore, Loch Spelve *Mull* on 29 Jul - 24 Aug [D. Pointon, T de Clermont *et al*]. *Record was accepted by the BBRC.*

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

AMBER LIST *A patchily distributed resident breeder: reduced or absent at some sites due to mink predation and scarce in many areas in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 200 on *Tiree* on 7 Mar, 150 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 15 May, 120 at Eilean Traighe, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 91 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr.

Summer/breeding Back on breeding sites on *Tiree* from 20 Mar, where 286 AON found at 8+ sites with mixed success e.g. 72 yng from 30 AON at Scarinish but only a handful from 85 AON on The Reef; first fledged birds from 27 Jun. On *Islay* 17 AONs at RSPB Loch Gruinart. 40, inc. 10-15 juvs at Duncuan Is. Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Jul, but no data from *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max counts inc., 300 at Eilean Traighe, Ormsary *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 130 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, 111 at Blairmore, Loch Long

Cowal on 16 Nov, 64 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Oct, 64 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Aug and 62 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Dec.

LITTLE GULL* *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

AMBER LIST *An annual visitor, most frequently in autumn but may be encountered at any time of the year.*

Winter/spring A 2cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jan.

Autumn/winter A 2cy was at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 3 Aug, a juv was off NW *Mull* on 6 Sep, a juv >W past Milton *Tiree* on 6 Sep and 2 juvs >W past Hynish *Tiree* on 6 Sep.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL* *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*

AMBER LIST *A scarce visitor mainly in autumn and winter.*

Winter/spring Unusually, there were no reports during this period.

Autumn/winter A 1cy (juv) was at Machrihanish Bay *Kintyre* on 8 Aug & 16 Aug, a 1cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 & 21 Aug, a 1cy was at Balvicar, Seil *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Aug, perhaps a new 1cy was at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Sep, a 1cy was at Java Point, Craignure *Mull* on 11 Sep, a 2cy (Polish bird with red c/r) was at Dunoan *Cowal* on 16 Sep, two 1cy's were at Bowmore, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 1 Oct with 1 still nearby at Blackrocks on 7 Oct, a 1cy was at Rhunahaorine *Kintyre* on 17 Oct, and a 1cy was at Stewarton *Kintyre* on 25 Oct.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

AMBER LIST *A widespread and common resident breeding species but reduced or absent at some sites due to predation by mink.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 1,000 at Ardnave *Islay* on 9 Feb, 800 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 14 Feb, 510 at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 5 Jan, 471 at Laggan Bay *Mull* on 21 Jan and 370 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 8 & 17 Feb. Elsewhere, other counts inc., 179 at Calgary *Mull* on 21 Jan and 105 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 21 Feb. Birds returned to some *Tiree* breeding sites in mid Mar.

Summer/breeding At Port Righ *Kintyre* 8 AONs. On *Tiree* 646 AONs found at 22 sites (3 colonies with 130+ AONs) and ca 235+ birds fledged from 9 colonies and first fledged birds from 28 Jun. At Gunna Is. Coll 30 prs AONs with many young. On *Islay* 26 AONs at RSPB Ardnave and 3 AON's at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Mid-Argyll* at Egg Shed site, Ardrishaig return to 25 AONs (cf 10-11 AONs in 2021 & 25 AONs in 2020) following site works disturbance, with fledged young from early Jul. At Loch Creran *North Argyll* ca 10 prs.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most higher counts were from *Tiree* where max counts of 342 on 28 Dec and 300 at Ruaig on 28 Aug. Elsewhere, max counts inc., 200 at Ardlarach, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec, 200 at Ardlamont *Cowal* on 31 Dec, 150 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 28 Dec, 140 at Kinloch *Mull* on 18 Oct and 103 at the Oa *Islay* on 15 Aug.

RING-BILLED GULL* *Larus delawarensis*

AMBER LIST *A scarce to rare visitor: Almost annual and records for every month of the year, however fewer records in recent years.*

Winter A 2cy was at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 22-29 Mar [K. Gillon, J. Bowler, T. O'Connor].
Record was accepted by the ABRC.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

AMBER LIST *A common resident: breeding widely but in small numbers on small islands along the coast.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 112 on *Tiree* on 1 Jan, 58 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 43 at the Dutchman's Cap, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 26 Apr and 39 at Loch Crinan *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. Small nos of AONs reported on *Islay*, *Mid-Argyll*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* colony visits gave AONs at; Lunga (7), Sgeir an Eirionnaich (12+), Sgeir an Fheòir (5+) and Fladda (8+). In *Mid-Argyll* 12 prs on Reisa Mhic Phaidean on 1 Apr and 7 AOS on Ormsa, Sound of Luing on 28 Mar. Fledged birds on noted *Tiree* from 14 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts inc., 210 at Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Aug, 181 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 12 Nov during grey seal pupping, 118 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Oct, 75 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 Dec, 50 at Kinloch *Mull* on 4 Dec and 46 at Bonawe *North Argyll* on 19 Nov.

GLAUCOUS GULL* *Larus hyperboreus*

AMBER LIST A *scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar.*

Winter/spring Approx. 18-21 birds. All reports of single juv/2cy unless stated; on *Coll* at Hogh Bay on 1 Mar, on *Colonsay* at Balnahard on 11 & 27 Apr. On *Islay* at sites around inner Loch Indaal on 15 Jan-19 Mar and at Sanaigmore on 19 Feb. On *Jura* at Feolin on 25 Feb, in *Kintyre* at Rhunahaorine Point on 21 Feb, Westport on 4 Apr, at A' Chleit on 31 May. On *Mull* at Caliach Point on 15 Jan, at Ulva Ferry on 26 Jan, at Salen on 13 & 25 Mar, at Loch Ba on 1 Apr & 28 May, off Glengorm on 2 May, at Glen Bellart on 17 May, at Loch Scridain on 28 May, at Tobermory on 28 May and at Lady's Rock on 12 Jun. In *Mid-Argyll* at Crinan on 3 Feb. On *Tiree* a max of 2-3 juvs (2cy) reported at various locations between 11 Jan and 9 Apr with a late report at Balevullin on 16 May, also, a 3cy at Salum Bay on 3 & 6 Apr.

Autumn/winter Singles, all presumed juv/1cy. On Oronsay *Colonsay* on 2-5 Oct & 8 Nov, at Lochbuie *Mull* on 28 Nov, at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 16 & 31 Dec, at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Dec and at Ardnave *Islay* on 26 Dec.



Iceland Gull *Islay* Feb 2022 (D. Dinsley)

ICELAND GULL* *Larus glaucooides glaucooides*

AMBER LIST A *scarce but regular winter visitor: most frequent Jan-Mar, with numbers varying widely from year to year. There are a few summer records.*

Winter/spring Approx. 19 birds. All reports of single juv/2cy unless stated. On *Colonsay* at Ardskenish on 21 Mar. On *Islay* with 1-2 birds at sites around inner Loch Indaal on 2 Jan-6 Apr, 3 birds (2 x 2cy & a 3cy) on 20 Feb, also an adult at Kintra, The Oa on 21 Feb, an ad at Machir Bay on 9 Apr and a 2cy at Cornabus, The Oa on 17 & 27 May. In *Kintyre* at Muasdale on 11 Feb, at Southend on 12 Mar, 2 (2cy & 3cy) at Stewarton on 22 Mar with a 2cy there to 14 Apr, and at Westport on 5 Apr. In *Mid-Argyll* at Balvicar, Seil on 22 Feb-22 Mar, a 3cy at Oban Bay on 4 Mar, at Airds Bay, Taynuilt on 5 Mar and at Craobh Haven on 19 Apr. On *Mull* at Loch na Keal & Loch Ba area on 3 Mar-27 Apr and at Loch Peallach on 13-17 May & 3 Jun. On *Tiree* at Sorobaidh Bay on 5 Jan, at Hough Bay on 14 Jan, 19 Feb & 23 Feb, at Ruaig on 25 Feb, at Loch a' Phuill on 14 Apr & 2-5 May and different bird at Kilmoluaig on 2 May.

Autumn/winter No reports.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

RED LIST A *widespread and abundant resident breeding species that forms large flocks outside the breeding season. Recently several large colonies have been abandoned, and very few now breed inland.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 617 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 25 Jan, 565 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 340 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 17 Jan and 250 at Dunstaffnage Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On *Islay* at RSPB Ardnave 12 AONs. At Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* only 2 AONs. At least 61 AONs on *Tiree* across six sites and first chicks noted during Jul. In *Mid-Argyll* an est. 70 AOS on Ormsa, Sound of Luing on 28 Mar.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 990 at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Dec, 540 at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Sep, 300 at Gigha Bay, Gigha *Kintyre* on 29 Nov and 292 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 13 Dec. Several adult N. European *argentatus* birds noted at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* in Dec, with perhaps up to 10 good examples.



Yellow-legged Gull *Kintyre* Apr 2022 (J. Dickson)

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL* *Larus michahellis*

AMBER LIST A *vagrant: Three records; one at Loch Gruinart, Islay on 1-7 Sep 2002 (in this case the race/sub-species 'atlantis' was not ruled out), an adult at Drumlemble, Kintyre on 21-22 Feb 2014 and a 2cy at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 17 May 2018.*

Spring A 5cy+ adult was at North Craigs, 4 kms NW of Campbeltown Kintyre on 14 Apr [J. Dickson, N. Hammatt]. *Record was accepted by the SBRC.*

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

AMBER LIST A *widespread breeding species: generally present from Mar to Sep. Some colonies are much affected by mink predation. A few remain in winter. Seabird 2000 found 3,235 pairs in Argyll and Bute but numbers have since declined greatly.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas and from sites by month of; Jan (7), Feb (10) and Mar (54). Generally, a scarce bird in winter. In Jan, singles noted in (Colonsay/Cowal/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll) and 8 ads were at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 23 Feb. Arrivals in several areas from mid-Feb however many arrivals in mid Mar. Higher counts noted inc., 60 at Heylipol Tiree on 10 May, 56 at Loch Kinnabus, The Oa Islay on 1 Apr and 45 at Stroneskar Mid-Argyll on 21 May.

Summer/breeding Limited and incomplete breeding data. On Tiree 67 AONs across 4 sites and none at a further 2 sites. 2 prs Reisa Mhic Phaidean Mid-Argyll on 1 Apr. First fledged young noted Add Est Mid-Argyll on 16 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura). Nos declined from early Aug. Max counts of 38 at Ballymeanoch Mid-Argyll on 15 Jul and 36 at Loch a' Phuill Tiree on 27 Aug. Only 3 reports in Nov and 1 in Dec, with 4 at Blairmore, Loch Long Cowal on 11 Dec.

An adult ringed in Portugal returned for 6th year at Bishop's Glen, Dunoon Cowal.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

AMBER LIST A *regular passage migrant but very rare, and irregular, breeding species.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/North Argyll). First arrivals; 1 at Balephetrish Bay Tiree on 24 Mar, 1 at Machrihanish Kintyre on 29 Mar, 1 Port Ellen Islay on 1 Apr, slightly earlier than 2021. Higher counts inc., 8 at Carradale Bay Kintyre on 14 Apr, 8 at Machrihanish Kintyre on 3 May, 6 at Bruichladdich Islay on 24 Apr and 6 at Pennygown Mull on 8 Apr. Elsewhere, 2 at Kilbride Bay Cowal on 7 Apr.

Summer/breeding No breeding reports, although possible. In summer, 1-2 birds noted from (Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and Tiree), with 10+ at Machrihanish SBO Kintyre on 26 June. Adults with juv noted at Innellan Cowal on 14 Jul and Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 27 Jul may have been birds dispersing from colonies outside Argyll.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull). Counts included: 5 (3 ad, 2 juvs) at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 1 Aug, 6 at Machrihanish Bay Kintyre on 8 Aug, 6 at Kennacraig Kintyre on 20 Aug, 2 at Port Charlotte Islay on 18 Aug and 5 at Carradale Bay Kintyre on 22 Aug and the last report was of 1 at Ardnadrochit Mull on 18 Sep.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

AMBER LIST A *scarce summer visitor with regular breeding restricted to: Coll, Islay, and Tiree. Scarce passage migrant and irregular breeder elsewhere.*

Spring/summer Reports from only (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). First report was of 1 at Sorobaiddh Bay Tiree on 14 Apr increasing to 48 on 12 May. Also 6 in SW Coll on 18 Apr and 2 at Nave Island Islay on 22 May.

Breeding On *Islay* with 1 AON at RSPB Ardnave and 3 AON at RSPB Loch Gruinart, while on *Tiree* where 26 prs produced a min of 16 fledged young, but none nested on *Gunna Coll*, however ca 20 prs reported from a site on *Coll* on 15 Jun. A pr seen on Oronsay *Colonsay* in Jun.

Autumn Twelve birds were at 2 sites on *Tiree* on 4 Aug with 1 remaining at Balephetrish Bay on 8 Aug, and the last 1 was at *Kintra Islay* on 27 Aug.



Common Tern Mull Jun 2022 (P. Walkden)

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

AMBER LIST A *locally common summer visitor: considerably more numerous than Arctic Tern close to the mainland, but often less so on outer isles. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 found that Argyll held the second largest colony in Britain and the largest in Scotland. Breeding Common Terns are a feature of Glas Eileanan SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. First reports were of two very early singles on 31 Mar at Port Ellen *Islay* and Corran *Kintyre*. No further reports until 28 Apr when 17 off Quinish *Mull* then a single at Kilmun *Cowal* on 3 May and 4 off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 4 May, becoming more widespread in the following week. Max counts of 27 at Scallastle *Mull* on 16 May and 25 at Duncuan Is., Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 26 May.

Summer/breeding Breeds on offshore islands for which little data. Good breeding year on *Tiree* where some 60 pairs at two sites raised 100 (fledged) young. Breeding also reported from (*Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 180 (100 ads + 80 juvs) at Soa Pt. *Tiree* on 18 Jul and 80 at Lady's Rock *Mull* on 22 Jul.

Autumn/winter Few reports after mid-Aug. Later max count of 14 (inc. 3 juv) at Salen *Mull* on 10 Sep and last singles were at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 4 Oct, Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct and Scallastle *Mull* on 23 Oct.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor and localised breeding species particularly on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, Jura, Mull, and Tiree. Many colonies are severely affected by mink predation and are often unproductive where no trapping is undertaken. Seabird 2000 counted 1,823 pairs in Argyll & Bute.*

Spring Reports from all areas except (Cowal). First reports of 15+ at Milton Tiree on 24 Apr, 2 from the Oban to Colonsay ferry on 27 Apr and 50+ SW of Coll on 28 Apr.

Summer/breeding Good breeding year on Tiree where some 290 young fledged from 400 pairs at 13 sites around the island – another good year. No pairs nested on Gunna Coll. 157 birds on Eilean Ghaoideamal, Oronsay Colonsay. Fledged young noted from early Jul on Tiree. Small nos noted breeding elsewhere on Colonsay, Islay and Mull. A build-up of 2cy birds on Tiree with 213 across 3 sites by 20 Jun and 110 noted Scallastle Bay Mull on 22 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura/North Argyll). Most birds had departed by mid-Aug and only small nos Islay and Tiree with generally 1-3 birds Sep to early Oct, with singles at Caliach Pt Mull and Balnahard Bay Colonsay on 14 Oct and the last 2 at Scallastle Bay Mull on 19 Oct.



Arctic Tern Mid-Argyll Jul 2022 (J. Speirs)

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

AMBER LIST *Previously an uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor but an increasing summer visitor which now breeds or holds territory in very small numbers on Coll, Treshnish Isles Mull, Tiree, Colonsay, Islay and Staffa.*

Winter/spring No reports in winter. Spring reports from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Mull/Tiree). First reports of 1 at Staffa Mull on 2 Apr, singles on Oronsay Colonsay on 4 Apr and at Arinagour Coll on 4 Apr and 4 at Ceann a' Mhara Tiree. Max counts of 9 at the Dutchman's Cap Mull on 26 Apr and 5 at Lunga, Treshnish Is. Mull on 26 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data of small nos of confirmed breeding on (Colonsay/Mull/Tiree) and probable breeding on (Coll/Islay). At RSPB Oronsay Colonsay 5 Ters and at least 2 (poss. 4) fledged young, also 3 Ter on Colonsay. On Mull at least 5 Ters, on Treshnish Is. and a possible

pair on Staffa. On *Tiree* at least 3 Ters, one of which fledged 1 yng. On *Coll* up to 4 birds by roadside lochs in Jul and *Islay* a total of 5 birds in 2 sites. *Some HPAI casualties found washed ashore in Jul, including a bird in Kintyre ringed as a chick on Mingulay, Western Isles.*

Autumn/winter Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Passage birds noted from 2 Aug when 3 from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry. Autumn counts of passage birds very low reflecting the losses of this species to HPAI, with max counts of 5 at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 3 Sep. Outside the usual areas 2 reported at Easdale *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Aug. Two reports in Oct were the last; 2 >W in 1 hr at Aird *Tiree* on 10 Oct and a single at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 14 Oct.

POMARINE SKUA* *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A scarce but regular passage migrant; mainly seen in autumn but has been recorded in all months.

Winter/spring Two off NE *Colonsay* on 19 Feb, presumably appeared after storm Eunice. Two >N past Caliach Point *Mull* on 26 May.

Autumn/winter On *Mull* a juv and a 2cy were off Caliach Point on 3 Sep and an ad was off there on 16 Oct. On *Tiree* an ad >SW past Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Aug, a juv >W past Aird on 26 Sep, 4 juvs >W past Aird on 10 Oct and 1 juv was at Gunna Sound on 20 Oct. A dark juv was seen from the Kennacraig to Port Askaig *Islay* ferry on 10 Nov.



Arctic Skua *Mull* Aug 2022 (P. Walkden)

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

RED LIST *Previously the most common skua in Argyll with small numbers regularly seen in summer near large seabird colonies, this species has become scarce. The small breeding colonies on Jura and Coll have been in serious decline in recent years. Passage birds can be widespread in spring and especially autumn, but variable in numbers from year to year.*

Spring/summer/breeding The first reported was one seen from the Oban to *Colonsay* ferry on 9 Apr, followed by singles at Loch Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 18 Apr and at the Mull of *Kintyre* lighthouse on 21 Apr and 2 at Treshnish Isles *Mull* on 6 May. Thereafter 1-2 reported regularly in May from

Coll, Treshnish Is. *Mull* and *Tiree* and occasionally from *Colonsay* and *Jura*. Max count of 8 on *Coll* where 1 AOT reported from one site and 2 prs at another. A pr held Ter on *Tiree* in late May-Jul.

Autumn/winter The first passage bird noted was 1 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 4 Aug. Watches on *Mull* at Caliach Pt noted 16 on 20 Aug, 9 on 3 Sep, 7 on 12 Sep, with the last single on 25 Oct. On *Tiree* 8 >SW past Hynish on 4 Sep, and 3 juv >W at Aird on 26 Sep were the peak counts. On *Islay* only singles were noted: at Rubh Leac nam Laogh on 19 Aug, at Ardmores Is on 1 Sep and Loch Gruinart on 26 Sep. Only 8 reports of 1-2 birds in Oct and in Nov, a juv at Kennacraig *Kintyre* on 10 Nov and a late ad at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 21 Nov were the last reported.

LONG-TAILED SKUA* *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A scarce and irregular passage migrant: spring and autumn records off western coasts and islands.

Spring An adult was seen from the Oban ferry off N *Colonsay* on 11 Jun [D. Jardine, M. Davison].

Autumn A juv (1cy) was off Milton *Tiree* on 4 Sep [K. Gillon]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

LITTLE AUK* *Alle alle*

A scarce and irregular winter visitor: usually seen during sea-watches or after severe gales.

Winter In *Cowal* 1 was at Ardentinny on 3 Jan and 1 was found alive in a garden at Craigendive *Cowal* on 10 Jan and then released at the loch side. On *Mull* 3 were at Loch Scridain on 12 Jan, 1 was at Loch na Keal on 13 Jan, 1 was at Calgary Bay on 13 Jan and 1 at Knockvologan Beach on 17 Jan. On *Tiree* 1 flew along the shoreline at Sorobaidh Bay on 9 Jan, another/the same was picked up inland at Barrapol on 12 Jan and returned to the sea the following day, 1 was at Hough Bay on 14 Jan, 1 was at Milton on 21 Jan, a live stormbound bird was ashore at Milton on 9 Feb and a dead bird was at Vaul on 28 Feb. A long dead individual was found at Carsaig Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jun.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

AMBER LIST A *highly colonial, and locally abundant, breeding species. Adults with small young appear on the sea far from colonies in late summer. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands and smaller numbers are regular in sea lochs in winter. Breeding Common Guillemots are a feature of North Colonsay & Western Cliffs SPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas with generally low counts of 1-5 birds, but 134 Loch na Keal *Mull* on 16 Jan, 84 off Pennyghael *Mull* on 25 Jan and 150 between *Mull* and *Tiree* on 3 Mar. Birds appearing back at nesting cliffs from early Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding data from *Colonsay*, *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*; On *Colonsay* Dun Tealtaig sample cliff a count of 154.8 individuals (N=5 counts) (cf. 118.4 in 2021). No details from Sanda Is. *Kintyre* due to suspension of seabird research as a result of the HPAI outbreak. On *Islay* 192 on cliffs at RSPB The Oa in Jun (cf 193 in 2021). At Treshnish Is. *Mull* breeding on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil with a combined tot of 15,391 ads. *This is the highest count this century* (TIARG). On *Tiree* 1,500 ads at Ceann a' Mhara on 8 Apr rising to 3,515 on 18 May and 6,846 on 14 Jun (*a very high count* per J. Bowler RSPB). A major wreck involving at least 7,000 birds was found around along the east *Kintyre* and *Islay* coasts as a result of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in early Jul. It is thought that the origin of these birds was the large colony on Rathlin Island, however 1,000+ alive birds were seen from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 26 Jul and 65 in a tight feeding flock were off Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 18 July.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas, with a max counts of 2,000 from the Oban to *Colonsay* ferry on 28 Aug, 720 from the *Tiree* to Barra ferry on 31 Aug, 500+ in the Sound of Islay *Islay* on 9 Sep and 319 at Caliach Point *Mull* on 14 Oct, then generally low count reports of 1-50 birds until the end of the year.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

AMBER LIST A *locally common breeding species, although much less numerous and with smaller colonies than Common Guillemot. Large numbers of passage migrants may be seen from headlands with smaller numbers regular in sea lochs in winter.*

Winter/spring Most reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Generally, counts of 1-12 birds noted. Max counts of 450 between *Mull* and *Tiree* on 3 Mar and 104 >NW off Ardmor Point *Mull* on 7 Apr. On *Tiree* 150 ads were back at nesting colonies on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding reports from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). On *Colonsay* at Uragai sample study area 47 birds there in Jun (cf. 40 in 2021). On *Islay* at RSPB The Oa a count of 221 ads in Jun. No details from Sanda Is. *Kintyre* due to suspension of seabird research as a result of the HPAI outbreak. On *Mull* at Treshnish Is. a tot of 702 birds on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil at end of Jun. On *Tiree* at Ceann a' Mhara counts of 326, with most on eggs (many more birds on the sea) on 14 Jun, and 145 ads, many with large young on 12 Jul. Relatively few found during the HPAI outbreak in Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Most high counts were from sea areas around *Coll*, *Mull* and *Tiree* during Sep-Oct. Sea watch counts from *Tiree* (with most auks identified as this species) inc., 3,150 past Aird *Tiree* in 75 mins on 27 Sep, 3,425 past Aird *Tiree* in 1 hr on 10 Oct, 4,068 past Caliach Point *Mull* on 14 Oct, and 3,950 past there on 16 Oct. 300 >W Urvaig *Tiree* in 30mins on 4 Nov, 100 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 1 Nov. Elsewhere, most counts at sea from ferries with 1-50 birds noted Nov-Dec.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle*

AMBER LIST A *widespread, resident breeding species: on coasts, islands, and in sea lochs. Black Guillemot is a protected feature of Clyde Sea Sill MPA.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts included 15 at Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 21 Jan, 20 at Carraig Fhada *Islay* on 25 Feb, 14 in the Sound of *Mull* on 24 Jan and 18 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 8 Apr.

Summer/breeding Sea counts ideally in Apr are a good indication of breeding nos (also see counts above). Counts of 180 at sea around Sanda Is. *Kintyre* on 19 Apr, 20 at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* on 29 Apr, 25 at Port Askaig *Islay* on 13 Jul, 30 in Oban Bay *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Jul and 2 pairs nested in E wall of Carrick Castle *Cowal*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Counts from most coastal sites, usually of 1-10 birds, and max counts of 319 passing Caliach Pt *Mull* on 14 Oct, 41 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Sep, 32 from the Oban to Barra ferry within 5km of *Tiree* on 3 Aug and 18 off SE *Colonsay* on 28 Aug.

PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

RED LIST A *very localised breeding species with main colonies on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles: only very occasionally recorded in winter.*

Winter/spring Three were off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 15 Jan and singles off Milton *Tiree* on 21 Jan and off Shuna *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan and dead birds found on *Coll* (1), *Islay* (1), *Tiree* (11) in Jan-Feb were the only reports until 1 at Carskey Bay *Kintyre* on 20 Mar. Birds noted more frequently

from 12 Apr off (*Islay/Mull/Tiree*) and larger counts inc., 642 on Staffa *Mull* on 20 Apr and 1,000 Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 31 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data: no count at Sanda Is. *Kintyre*. None were seen during surveys at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 14 Jun. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* an est. of 4,917 AOBs on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil (TIARG), although symptoms of HPAI were noted there in Jul. At Staffa *Mull* 642 ind noted 22 Apr.

Autumn/winter Only reports were of 1-2 birds off *Coll*, *Tiree* and NW *Mull* however a max count of 310 from the Oban to Barra ferry mostly off *Tiree* on 3 Aug. Three reports in Oct, with singles at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 24 Oct and off Inverneil *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Oct and two at Caliach Pt *Mull* on 22 Oct.



Puffin Mull Aug 2022 (*P. Walkden*)

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

A scarce widely distributed breeder (on moorland lochs), winter visitor, and passage migrant.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 26 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 20 Apr, 16 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 16 Mar, 13 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 7 Mar, 12 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 28 Mar and 11 at Gott Bay *Tiree* on 25 Mar.

Summer/breeding Reports from likely breeding areas in (*Coll/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*) but under recorded as confirmed breeding only noted at 5 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 48 at Loch Indaal *Islay* on 3 Nov, 14 off SE Colonsay on 29 Aug, 11 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* on 10 Sep and 11 at Caliach Pt. *Mull* on 30 Nov.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

AMBER LIST A very scarce breeder in Mid and North Argyll: scarce in winter but more numerous on passage. Breeding was confirmed at 13 sites between 1985- 2017. The Sound of Gigha, Kintyre and Kilfinan Bay, Cowal are sites of national importance for wintering birds.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Fewer large counts with max of 11 at Grogport / Carradale Kintyre on 5-12 Jan, 5 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 4 at Loch Buie *Mull* on 23 Jan. Records of note elsewhere inc., 2 off E *Colonsay* on 20 Apr, 1 off Kilmun *Cowal* on 3 Jan, 1+ off Craighouse *Jura* on 26 Mar, 2 at Hough Bay *Tiree* on 16 Mar and 1 at Arinagour *Coll* on 26 May.

Breeding Evidence of likely breeding from 3 sites in *Mid-Argyll* and 2 sites in *North Argyll*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Max counts of 8 at Carradale Bay Kintyre on 8 Nov, 7 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 10 Sep, most counts of 1-4 birds.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

AMBER LIST A *numerous winter and passage visitor. Birds in breeding plumage are regularly recorded from Apr to mid-Jun. Pre-migratory gatherings occur off some coasts in late Apr and early May and a few immatures summer. The Sound of Gigha and the seas around Tiree and Coll have been designated as SPAs and Loch na Keal on Mull, Loch Indaal on Islay, West Loch Tarbert in Kintyre and Lochs Beg & Scridain on Mull are sites of national importance.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most significant counts from the Sound of Gigha Kintyre, the *Mull* sea lochs, Loch Indaal Islay and the *Tiree* coast. Max counts on *Mull* (of roosting flocks) with 88 at Loch na Keal on 16 Jan, 130 on 13 Feb, 71 at Pennyghael on 24 Jan, 37 at Loch Tuath on 27 Jan and 36 at Loch Buie on 28 Mar. Elsewhere, higher counts from other sites; 72 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 16 Mar, 93 off *Tiree*, inc. 52 at Gott Bay, on 28 Mar, 45 at Loch Indaal Islay on 20 Apr, 32 off SE *Colonsay* on 24 Mar and 15 at Eilean Fhada, Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan.

Summer Reports from all areas Jun-Aug except (*Cowal/Jura/North Argyll*). Reports of 1-6 birds from coastal sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Still 1-5 birds at several sites in Sep. Passage noted from 27 Sep when 1 >W off Aird *Tiree* and nos increased across sites during Oct. Max counts of 85 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 10 Dec, 35 at Loch Indaal Islay on 3 Nov, 27 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 7 Dec and 18 off Oronsay *Colonsay* on 11 Dec.

WHITE-BILLED DIVER* *Gavia adamsii*

A vagrant: Eleven records; all since 1986, most recently on Islay in 2020, Mull in 2009, off Tiree in Oct 2011 and off Machrihanish SBO, Kintyre in Mar 2013.

Winter A 3cy+ was seen and photographed off Carraig Fhada, NE The Oa Islay on 25 Feb [W. Scott, G. Scott, P. Rummery]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

WILSON'S PETREL* *Oceanites oceanicus*

Rare vagrant to the UK & Ireland: One record; a live bird caught on Jura on 1 Oct 1891. Highly pelagic. Breeds on rocky islands in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic seas; in non-breeding season, this species ranges northward over the Atlantic.

Summer An adult was seen and photographed from a boat c 11 miles north of *Tiree* on 20 Jul [T. Melling *et al*]. *Record was accepted by the SBRC.*

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor. The main breeding colonies are on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles with a few pairs on Soa and Staffa. Breeding birds first come ashore in late May or Jun. Most sightings away from breeding colonies are during Jul-Sep, when non-breeders wander extensively. Breeding European Storm-petrel is a feature of Treshnish Isles SPA.*

Summer/autumn Reported between 27 May and 20 Oct from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). First report was 1 off NE *Colonsay* on 27 May. A few counts of 1-3 birds, mostly late Jun to late Aug from ferries, however regular counts from Caliach Pt. *Mull* gave 20 on 6 Jun, 12 on 29 Jun and ca 30 on 6 Sep, and 36 (from ferry) N of *Coll* on 31 Aug. Last reports of singles on Lunga, Treshnish Is. *Mull* on 24 Sep, in Loch Scridain *Mull* on 8 Oct and at Gunna Sound *Tiree* from the ferry on 20 Oct.

Breeding Restrictions on seabird ringing as a consequence of the HPAI outbreak meant that no survey was possible at Treshnish Is. *Mull* and Sanda *Kintyre*. Birds were seen and heard around the village and boulder beach at Treshnish Is. *Mull* indicating the likely presence of breeding. *The Treshnish Is. Mull supports 20% of the Great Britain population and between 0.7-1.7% of the Atlantic (north-eastern) population as estimated by Seabird 2000 (TIARG).*

LEACH'S PETREL* *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

RED LIST A scarce, but regular, autumn passage migrant off western headlands; particularly after strong westerlies. There are occasional reports in spring and summer.

Winter One was found in a poor state at Fionnphort *Mull* on 2 Jan and died the next day.

Autumn One was seen off SE *Islay* from the Kennacraig to Port Askaig ferry on 10 Nov.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

AMBER LIST A common but localised breeding species in all areas apart from Cowal and North Argyll. Large numbers occur on passage off western headlands.

Winter Small nos ashore on calmer days from Jan-Mar from *Tiree* near breeding colonies and a max count of 600+ at Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on 12 Jan and 800 on 9 Mar.

Spring/breeding Only breeding reports received from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). At Treshnish Is. *Mull* the breeding population for Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil was estimated at 261 pairs based upon apparently occupied sites (AOS). This represents a 2.7% increase in the number of breeding birds from the previous year. Max Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) of 1,256 at Ceann a' Mhara *Tiree* on 14 Jun, in *Kintyre* no count at Sanda, although 8 at Keil Point on 6 May and 8 at Brunerican Pt on 2 Jun, 70 at RSPB Oa *Islay* in Jun and 171 at Urugaig *Colonsay* in Jun.

Autumn/winter Only records were from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Max counts 850 from the Oban to Barra ferry off *Tiree* on 31 Aug and outwith *Tiree*, only 1-10 from (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). On *Tiree* 1,200+ Ceann a' Mhara cliffs on calmer days Nov.

SOOTY SHEARWATER* *Ardena grisea*

A passage migrant: almost exclusively recorded Jul-Oct. Sometimes seen in large numbers from western headlands, islands and on ferry crossings during Aug-Sep.

Autumn Sightings from (*Coll/Islay/Mull/Tiree*). On *Coll* 1 was seen from the ferry off Arinagour on 29 Oct. On *Islay* 2 were seen from the Kennacraig to Islay ferry on 15 Aug, also 12+ on 20 Aug, 71 on 3 Sep and 5 on 5 Sep, and elsewhere 2 were off Frenchman's Rocks on 19 Aug and 18 off SW Oa on 19 Aug. On *Mull* 1 was off Caliach Point on 18 Aug with higher counts there of 43 on 4 Sep, 172 on 18 Sep (feeding around Minke Whales), 300+ off Staffa on 20 Sep (around a Minke Whale), 220 off N Iona on 23 Sep, 160 off Treshnish Is. (around a breaching Humpback Whale) on 24 Sep then last sightings of singles off Caliach Point on 14 & 25 Oct. On *Tiree* 2 at sea off N *Tiree* on 3 Aug, 45 >SW off Hynish on 22 Aug, 9 at sea between *Tiree* and Barra on 31 Aug, then higher counts of 24 >W off Milton on 4 Sep, 112 >SW off Hynish on 4 Sep, 70+ at S

Gunna Sound on 7 Sep, 250+ off Milton on 8 Sep (around breaching Humpbacked Whales), thereafter nos reduced, with 48 off Milton on 11 Sep, 1 there on 20 Sep, 2 >W off West Hynish on 30 Sep, 3 >SW off Hynish on 3 Oct, 1 >W off Aird on 10 Oct and 1 found recently dead on tideline at Traigh Bhagh on 15 Nov.

GREAT SHEARWATER* *Ardenna gravis*

A rare passage migrant: Mostly in autumn with last reports from Sep 2007.

Autumn Several were noted in sea area between west *Coll* and Hynish *Tiree* between 3-8 Sep associated with a feeding group of whales. Singles were off *Coll* and off Milton *Tiree* on 3 Sep [E. Forbes, M. Newell, T. O'Connor], off Gunna Sound and Milton *Tiree* on 7 Sep, and 2 (possibly 3) in a.m. off Milton *Tiree* on 8 Sep [J. Bowler], and 3 (probably more) in p.m. off Milton *Tiree* on 8 Sep [K. Gillon *et al*]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. An excellent autumn in Scotland for this species and also for Cory's Shearwater.*



Manx Shearwater Mull Jul 2022 (P. Walkden)

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

AMBER LIST *Breeding colonies have been confirmed only on Sanda Islands and Treshnish Isles. Large numbers are seen on passage, especially during Aug-Sep.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*) First reports were of 3 off Hynish *Tiree* on 25 Mar, 3+ at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 28 Mar. Later 950 were between *Mull* and *Coll* on 9 Apr. Higher counts inc., 1,200 between *Mull* and *Tiree* on 19 Apr, 530 off Glengorm NW *Mull* on 28 Apr and 250 at the Cairns of *Coll Coll* on 26 Apr. 1,000 were at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 18 Jun.

Breeding At Treshnish Is. *Mull* presumed breeding birds were seen and heard at night on Lunga and small numbers of birds were seen daily, feeding, or passing offshore (TIARG). No count on Sanda Is. *Kintyre* as a result of the suspension of seabird research as a consequence of the HPAI outbreak. *The Treshnish Isles supported 0.4% of the Great Britain population as estimated by Seabird 2000 (1998 – 2002).*

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*North Argyll*). Higher counts inc., *ca* 30,000 feeding with cetaceans off SE *Tiree* on 7-8 Sep, 7,320 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 22 Aug, 800 at Sorisdale Bay *Coll* on 7 Jul, 700 from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 26 Jul, 608 >S (1hr) off Frenchman's Rocks *Islay* on 19 Aug, *ca* 2,000 from the Kennacraig to *Islay* ferry on 20 Aug, and *ca* 1,200 on the same route on 3 Sep, *ca* 4,000 off Caliach Pt *Mull* on 3 Sep, *ca* 1,200 Gribun *Mull* on 18 Sep, and *ca* 7,000 off Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep. Last report was of 1 >S at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 16 Oct.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER* *Puffinus mauretanicus*

RED LIST A scarce passage migrant (Aug-Dec) since 1992 but in very small numbers: usually seen with Manx Shearwaters.

Autumn Two were seen from the Kennacraig to Port Ellen *Islay* ferry on 20 Aug [J. Dickson], 1-2 from the later Kennacraig to Port Askaig *Islay* ferry on 20 Aug [N. Hammatt, D. Jardine *et al*], 1 from the Kennacraig to Port Ellen *Islay* ferry on 3 Sep [J. Dickson], 1 >SW past Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Sep [J. Bowler] and 1 >W past Aird *Tiree* on 26 Sep [J. Dickson]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. A good set of records, last was in 2020 with only one bird recorded.*

NORTHERN GANNET *Morus bassanus*

AMBER LIST Most Gannets in Argyll waters probably come from Ailsa Craig (30 km east of Mull of Kintyre) and St Kilda (190 km northwest of Tiree). Gannets are common inshore in Argyll waters from Apr to Oct, often seen high up sea lochs and some birds travel inland to cross between Campbeltown Loch and Machrihanish. They are also reported in small numbers Nov to Mar.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Smalls nos of ads noted off *Coll* and *Tiree* in Jan with a max of 5 in Sorobaiddh Bay on 1 Jan and singles noted off NW *Mull* and *Kintyre* in Jan. More reports in Feb - Mar but numbers remained low. More were noted from Apr with 40 >S in 30 mins at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 6 Apr, groups of up to 50 off *Tiree* in May, on *Mull* 100 were off Craignure - Grass Point from 14-27 May and 112 passed Caliach Pt on 26 May, and 200+ were at Machir Bay *Islay* on 23 May.

Summer Generally larger nos noted than usual in Jun & Jul, possibly a consequence of breeding failures caused by HPAI at colonies outside Argyll e.g. 400 of Balmavica *Kintyre* on 2 Jun, 250 off McArthur's Head *Islay* on 4 Jun, 150 off NE *Colonsay* on 30 Jun and 80 Traigh Crossapol *Coll* on 5 Jul. Corpses of birds, presumably succumbing to HPAI, were found around all coasts from early Jun. Very few juvs noted.

Autumn/winter Max counts of 1,300 >SW off Hynish *Tiree* on 4 Sep, 1,000 feeding with cetaceans off SE *Tiree* on 7-8 Sep, 1,675 >W in 1 hr past Aird *Tiree* on 10 Oct. Counts elsewhere inc., 600 off Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep and on 18 Sep 350 were off Gribun *Mull* and 350 off Balmeanach, Fishnish *Mull*. Reports decreased after mid Nov and only 3 reports of singles during Dec, from *Islay* and *Mull*, and of 4 birds in Hough Bay *Tiree* on 28 Dec.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Breeds in: Colonsay, Cowal, Jura, Kintyre (including Gigha), Mid-Argyll, Mull, and North Argyll, with around 230 pairs in recent years. Less numerous than Shag, but numbers have increased recently. Small numbers occur on some inland waters.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-3 birds. Max counts; 20 at Rubha Chraiginis *Tiree* on 14 Jan, and 12 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Feb.

Summer/breeding In North Argyll 30 AONs on Creag Island, Lynn of Lorn North Argyll on 3 Apr, and ca 40 AONs on Eilean na Cille, Sound of Jura Mid-Argyll on 26 May were only data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-6 birds. Max counts inc., 19 at Loch na Keal Mull on 12 Dec, 17 at the Sound of Gigha Kintyre on 8 Oct, 16 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 12 Sep, 11 at Caliach Point Mull on 3 Sep, and in Mid-Argyll 11 at Loch Crinan on 12 Aug.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

RED LIST A common resident, breeding on the mainland coast, outer isles and on islands in sea lochs. Widespread in winter and spring but very rare inland.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 600 at Gunna Sound Tiree on 26 May, 280 at Loch Spelve Mull on 25 Mar and 220 Kildaliog Bay Kintyre on 7 Apr.

Summer/breeding Breeding counts inc., 33 AONs at RSPB Oa Reserve Islay in Jun, 25 AONs on Oronsay Colonsay in Jun, no count at Sanda Kintyre and 102 AONs at Ceann a' Mhara Tiree on 7 Jul (with mean brood = 2.43 (n=54) 'a good year' J. Bowler, RSPB). On Treshnish Is. Mull breeding was confirmed on Lunga, Sgeir a Chaisteil and Fladda. The breeding populations on Lunga and Sgeir a' Chaisteil were 266 and 7 prs (TIARG), although some pairs may have finished when the count took place. On Islay, 51 noted on boat survey at Ardnave on 7 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts inc. 2,300 in Gunna Sound Tiree on 3 Aug with 1,600 there on 31 Aug, 966 dispersing south from roost in early a.m. at Port Mor Colonsay on 17 Oct, 360 Vaul Bay Tiree on 18 Nov, 220 Fladda, Sound of Luing Mid-Argyll on 7 Sep and 200 at Gott Bay Tiree on 22 Dec.

CATTLE EGRET* *Bubulcus ibis*

A vagrant: Four records; one on Islay in Oct 2009, one on Mull on 27 Oct 2011 with the same bird on Tiree on 17-25 Nov 2011, one on Mull at Calgary on 10 Oct-13 Nov 2018 and one at Dalvore, Mid-Argyll on 22 Oct 2020.

Spring A 2cy+ adult was seen and photographed near Stewarton Kintyre on 13 Apr [V. Russell]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A widespread resident: breeding in all areas except Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in Mull (50) and Mid-Argyll (25). Max counts of 17 at Loch na Keal Mull on 21 Feb, 15 at Gorsten Mull on 23 Jan, 13 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 22 Jan, 12 Holy Loch Cowal on 14 Jan, 12 at Arinagour Coll on 9 Feb and 10 at Eilean nan Ron, Oronsay Colonsay on 23 May.

Summer/breeding Data received from sites in; Colonsay (5), Islay (1), Jura (1), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (4), Mull (1) and North Argyll (2). Sites with more than 10 AON's inc. 24 at Ardachy, Loch Etive North Argyll, 15 at Ardtur, Appin North Argyll, 23 on Ulva Mull, 15 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll, and 24 at Ballachuan, Seil Mid-Argyll. Notable heronries elsewhere inc., counts of 6 AON's in N Jura and tot of 16 AON's at five sites on Colonsay. 16 inc., 9 juv Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 28 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 22 at the Holy Loch Cowal on 9 Oct, 14 at Aird Luing Mid Argyll on 13 Sep, 13 at Loch Gilp Mid-Argyll on 15 Aug, 12 at Loch Beg Mull on 18 Oct, 12 at Loch Craignish Mid-Argyll on 11 Sep and 12 on Oronsay Colonsay on 26 Aug. Counts of 10-11 birds at 3 other sites in Islay, Kintyre and Mull.



Heron Cowal Dec 2022 (A. Daw)

GREAT WHITE EGRET* *Ardea alba*

A rare visitor: Seventeen records between 1986 and 2021. This species is increasing as a breeding species in the Netherlands and France, and also in England since 2012.

Summer A 2cy+ was on the shore at Langamull beach NW Mull on 2 Jun then flew off towards Caliach Point [D. & C. Adams] and perhaps the same bird, in breeding plum, was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 3-16 Jun [P. Roberts, J. How]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

A scarce visitor: No records prior to 1958 but regular and a marked increase in last decade, mostly from autumn to spring. It has been seen more frequently in Argyll since breeding colonies have become established in England and Ireland.

Winter/spring/summer Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mull/Tiree). Total numbers uncertain as birds frequently move around the region, however a min of 14 and a max of 17 birds probably involved. Reported from sites, with 1-6 birds in; Cowal (9), Islay (10), Kintyre (7), Mid-Argyll (10) and North Argyll (3). Most sites only recorded 1-2 birds however max counts

of 6 at Shellfield *Cowal* on 17 Feb, and 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Jan, Feb and Apr. Counts of two recorded at six sites across Argyll.

Breeding There is still no evidence of breeding with sightings reducing in Apr, and only 13 reports in May, inc. 3 together in *Cowal*, 2 birds in Jun -Jul. However, two in trees with Rooks on *Islay* on 20 Apr is interesting.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Mull/Tiree*). Again, total numbers uncertain however a min of 14 and a max of 20 birds probably involved. Reported from sites, with 1-7 birds in; *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (5) and *North Argyll* (7). Most sites had 1-2 birds present. A max count of 7 at the Holy Loch *Cowal* on 23 Sep and birds likely spread from there to elsewhere in *Cowal* and other parts of Argyll. Elsewhere, max counts of 5 at Kennacraig, West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 27 Sep, 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* in Dec and at least 4 in *North Argyll* in Dec.

A colour-ringed imm was observed at Loch Gilp, Mid-Argyll on 11 Oct 2021 had been ringed as a fledged juv, from a colony of 31 prs at Wheldrake Ings, York, North Yorkshire on 23 Jul 2021. This bird was still present until at least 31 Jan 2022.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

AMBER LIST A *summer migrant, breeding in small but increasing numbers. Occurs more widely on passage.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Tiree*). First arrivals of singles at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, Ballygrant *Islay* on 25 Mar, Loch Nant *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar and central *Cowal* on 28 Mar.

Breeding Of the 26 sites checked, attempted nesting at 17 sites of which 11 prs were successful with 13 large young raised (ARSG). On *Islay* 1-2 birds noted 25 Mar - 26 Sep and on *Mull* 1-2 birds noted 21 Apr – 5 Sep but no evidence of breeding (ARSG).

Autumn Most birds had departed by late Aug to early Sep, with 1 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 26 Sep the last reported. *Birds ringed as chicks in Gwynedd, the Lake District and Highland seen during the season.*

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD* *Pernis apivorus*

AMBER LIST A *rare passage migrant: Fourteen records since 1980.*

Summer/autumn One or more birds was observed at a location in S *Kintyre* on 3-18 Aug. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

A scarce, but widespread, resident breeding species. Immatures tend to wander and may be recorded in areas where breeding does not occur.

All year Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-3 birds, but 6 together at Glen More *Mull* on 19 May and 4 at Loch Frisa *Mull* the same day. Up to 2 imms on *Coll* on 21 Mar - 3 Apr. At least 1 imm at various sites on *Tiree* on 5 Mar - 6 May.

Breeding Thought to be in the region of 120 to 130 prs. Of the 69 sites checked 65 sites were occupied by pairs and single birds were seen at two other sites. In a poor breeding season, a total of 14 young fledged from 42 sites where eggs known to have been laid (ARSG).

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

AMBER LIST

All year Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Fewer sightings noted during Jun and Jul, while nesting. Sightings generally of 1-2 birds, but 4 (a fledged brood) were at Lochorodale *Kintyre* on 8 Aug.

Breeding Thought to be in the region of 500 to 1,000 prs. Of the 26 sites checked, 7 had prs; a total of at least 4 fledged young were found at 3 of these (ARSG).



Sparrowhawk *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2022 (*B. Anderson*)

MARSH HARRIER* *Circus aeruginosus*

AMBER LIST *A scarce, but recently more or less annual, passage migrant: records in every year but one since 1986. Most records Apr-Jun.*

Spring/summer One was at Drumlemble *Kintyre* on 7 Apr. On *Islay* an imm male at Loch Tallant on 17 Apr and at least one fem type was seen at Glenegedale on 4 May, Saligo Bay on 16 May and Machir Bay on 4 Jun. On *Mull* a female at Loch Don *Mull* on 21 Apr. On *Colonsay* 1 was at RSPB Oronsay on 25 Jun.

Autumn On *Islay* presumably the same long staying adult female was seen around the island, mainly at Loch Gruinart between 6 Aug to end of Dec. In *Kintyre* an 2cy male was at East Backs, The Laggan on 29 Aug. In *Mid-Argyll* 1 was inland from Tayinloan on 19 Oct. On *Mull* a fem/imm was at Lochdon on 11 Aug then in the Torosay Hills on 12-13 Aug and 1 at Lochbuie on 2 Oct. On *Tiree* a fem was at The Reef on 21 Jul, an ad male was at An Fhaodhail on 15 Aug, a juv fem at Loch Bhasapol and west *Tiree* between 21-30 Aug, at Balephuill on 4 & 7 Sep, at Loch a' Phuill on 12 Sep with another / the same at Ruaig on 17 Sep.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

RED LIST *A sparse but widespread breeding species: Argyll holds around one quarter of the Scottish breeding population. Seen regularly: away from breeding areas, on migration, and in winter with reports from all recording areas.*

All year Reports from all areas. Fewer reports during Jul and Aug. Most reports from *Mull* then *Islay* and generally of 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 10 in Glen Cannel *Mull* on 26 Mar, 9 on *Jura* on 19 Apr, 7 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 12 Apr and 6 at a roost at Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Nov. A max of 6 birds on *Tiree* in early Sep.

Breeding Thought to be in the region of 100 to 150 prs. For the 34 sites checked, 14 were occupied, 10 prs laid eggs and 9+ young fledged. (cf 23+ fledged in 2021 and 60+ in 2020) (ARSG).



Hen Harrier *Mull* Mar 2022 (P. Walkden)

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

A vagrant: *Two records both in 2011; one on Mull on 20 and 24 Sept and one in Kintyre on 22 Sept.*

Autumn A juvenile was seen and photographed at Machir Bay and Sanaigmore *Islay* on 6 Nov. (and again from 1 Jan 2023 having presumably over-wintered in that area) [N. McMahon *et al*]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.

RED KITE* *Milvus milvus*

A re-introduction programme in Scotland since 1996 has involved releases in Highland, central, north-east and south-west Scotland. Genuine vagrants have occurred in the past, but most recent Argyll records involve these re-introduced birds.

Winter/spring Singles were at Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Mar, at Fearnoch Hill, Loch Awe *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Mar, nr Glen Clachaig, S Loch Ba *Mull* on 28 Mar, at Lerags *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Apr and at Torrisdale *Kintyre* on 8 Apr.

Summer Singles >N over Strone Brae, E of Inverlochry *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jun and at Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jun.

Autumn/winter One was over Soroba Hill, Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Aug, 1 over Loch Gair *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Sep, 5 were over Loch Frisa *Mull* on 18 Oct with 1 nearby at Glenforsa on 19 Oct, an Argyll record count of 10 passed over to E of Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 18 Oct with 1 seen there on 19 Oct, 1 was in hills W of Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Oct, 1 was over Inveraray *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Oct and 1 was over Dunbeg *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec.



Black Kite *Mull* May 2022 (J. Cook)

BLACK KITE* *Milvus migrans*

A vagrant: Four records; one at Vaul, Tiree on 16th May 1997, one near Dalmally, North Argyll on 31 May 2010, one at Kilmichael Glen, Mid-Argyll on 3 May 2014 and one near Machrihanish, Kintyre on 11 May 2016.

Spring A 3cy+ adult was over Loch Cuin, nr Dervaig *Mull* on 16 May [T. de Clermont, R. French *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

AMBER LIST A rare but increasing resident breeder in Argyll: wandering immatures (and sometimes adults) occur widely.

All year Reports from all areas. Most reports from (*Mull/Mid-Argyll/Islay*). Max count from *Islay* of 17 sub-ads at Loch Gruinart on 2 Apr, and 7 at The Oa RSPB reserve on 15 Dec. Up to 6 at several locations on *Mull* with 11 at Scallastle Bay on 27 Jan.

Breeding Of the 39 occupied Ters checked, 33 prs laid eggs but only 20 prs fledged a min of 21 young, with at least 8 sites losing large chicks due to HPAI (ARSG/RSPB).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD* *Buteo lagopus*

A rare visitor: (several old reports); 12 records since 1963, last records on Tiree on 17 Sep 1997 and on Islay on 11 and 19 Nov 2014.

Summer A 2cy was at Lochdon Mull on 14 Jun [C. Ladley, S. Toher *et al*] and again nearby at Croggan on 24 Jun [T. de Clermont]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

A resident breeding bird: common in all areas and the most abundant raptor in Argyll.

All year Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites, occasionally 6 and with max counts of 11 at Ardencaple, Seil Mid-Argyll on 21 Jan, 10 at Loch Spelve Mull on 28 May, 9 at Salen Mull on 5 Jun, 8 at Ardmeanach Mull on 15 Feb, 8 at Bridgend Islay on 3 Mar, 8 at Kildalton Islay on 31 Aug, 8 at Ardachy, Loch Etive North Argyll on 27 Sep and 7 Loch Tarbert Jura on 24 Mar. *Breeding* Thought to be in the region of 1,500 to 2,000 prs. Reports from all areas. Of the 98 sites checked 47 sites were occupied and fledged a min of 20 young (17 sites outcome unknown). (*cf* 25 in 2020) (ARSG).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

A patchily distributed breeding species: probably most numerous in Kintyre. It is widespread on Cowal, Islay, and Mull but only a rare visitor to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree. All records are requested.

All year Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura). Most reports from Islay, Kintyre, Mull and Mid-Argyll. Reports mainly of 1-2 birds at sites in all months with more reports during Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec. Single at Kilkenneth Tiree on 7 Jun. Evidence of presence found at Loch Balnagowan, Lismore, North Argyll, 8 Aug. Winter ringing in Kintyre N of Campbeltown was very successful with 4 birds caught during Jan-Mar and 17 during Sep-Dec (ARSG).

Breeding 2022 saw a recovery from the very poor breeding season in 2021, particularly in Kintyre, where vole populations were recovering. Of the 95 sites checked (*cf* 104 in 2020) prs were at 43 sites (45%, *cf* 14% in 2021) and the mean young per successful nest was 3.19 (*cf* 1.17 in 2021) (ARSG).

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

AMBER LIST A widespread and common resident breeding bird: absent from Coll and with only single records for Colonsay and Tiree.

All year Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree), but two reports noted presence on Scarba Mid-Argyll on 29 Mar and 13 Sep. Few reports in Jun (4) and Jul (2).

Breeding Improved occupancy and productivity due to increasing vole nos. Of the 51 sites checked 16 sites were occupied by prs (31%, *cf* 24% in 2021 & 50% in 2020). The mean young per successful nest was 2.00 (*cf* 1.0 in 2021) (ARSG). A very late brood fledged on Danna Mid-Argyll on 2 Jul.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

A very scarce resident breeding bird and winter visitor: almost certainly under recorded. All records are requested.

All year/breeding Reports from (Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree). On Colonsay 3 of the 6 sites checked were occupied with 1 pr fledging 1+ young. Fledged young / breeding was noted at sites on Coll, Seil Mid-Argyll and Mull. Elsewhere, singles were noted; on

Islay found dead at Wester Ellister on 30 Jan and seen at The Oa on 11 Nov, in *Mid-Argyll* at the Moine Mhor on 23 Oct and a moulted feather found at Toberonochy, Luing on 25 Aug, and on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 23 Apr & 15-17 Nov. Winter ringing in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown was very successful with 2 birds caught during Jan-Mar and 8 during Sep-Dec (ARSG). An adult male caught in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown on 15 Nov had been ringed in Oct 2021 at Glenscorrodale, Arran (19 km, 396 days).



Short-eared Owl *Mull* Jun 2022 (*J. Speirs*)

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

AMBER LIST A *widely but thinly distributed breeder and winter visitor. Numbers fluctuate and distribution varies with the abundance of small rodents, especially field voles (Microtus agrestis).*

Winter/spring Reports from (*Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mull*). Most reports of 1-2 birds came from sites on *Mull* (22) and max counts of 3 at *Gruline Mull* on 25 May. One was at *Maul nam Fineag Jura* on 29 May. Winter ringing in *Kintyre N* of Campbeltown caught one during Jan-Mar (ARSG).

Summer/breeding Eleven sites were checked: 3 occupied sites were found (*Cowal/Islay* - no data from *Coll/Mull*). A single young was known to have fledged giving 1.00 young/successful nest (*cf* 1.00 in 2021); the outcome was unknown at the other sites (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Very few reports after Jul. Only four singles reported from *Mull*. Four were caught during winter owl ringing N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* in Sep-Dec (ARSG).

HOOPOE* *Upupa epops*

A scarce passage migrant, with most records in spring.

Spring One was in a garden at Pulpit Hill, Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Jun.

Autumn One remained in the Croig area *Mull* on 16-27 Oct.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

A scarce but regular visitor with most records in autumn and winter at a few regular mainland locations. The last proven breeding record was in Cowal in 2018.

Spring Reports of singles from; *Cowal* at Glenfinart in Apr, *Islay* at Aros Bay in Jan, *Kintyre* at East Loch Tarbert in Feb, *Mid-Argyll* at Loch Gilp - Ardrishaig in Feb & Mar and on the Crinan Canal in Jan, *Mull* at Loch Don in Jan-Mar and Pennygown in May.

Summer/breeding No confirmed breeding, however interesting inland reports of 1 at Dalnahaig *Mid-Argyll* on 1 May and 1 at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Jun, Newton Hill *Mid-Argyll* on 24 July and Lephenstrath Br *Kintyre* on 31 Jul.

Autumn/winter An increase in reports, with notable increase in Sep and late Dec (the latter possibly a cold weather movement). Monthly number of ind. reported: Aug (4), Sep (10), Oct (2), Nov (2) and Dec (7). All reports of singles unless stated from; *Cowal* at the Holy Loch in Sep - Nov, 2 at Loch Riddon on 14 Sep, Blairmore to Gairletter in Dec, *Islay* at Bowmore on 14 Nov, *Jura* at Kinauchdruach on 12 Aug, *Mid-Argyll* at 10 sites, *Mull* at 10 sites and *North Argyll* at Victoria Bridge, Loch Tulla on 27 Sep.



Kingfisher *Kintyre* Jul 2022 (A. Hand)

WRYNECK* *Jynx torquilla*

RED LIST A rare and irregular passage migrant in spring and autumn; 13 records since 1969. Lasts record were at The Oa, Islay in Aug 2013, Gribun, Mull in Sep 2017 and Iona, Mull in Aug 2020.

Spring One was seen briefly at Kinnabus, The Oa *Islay* on 31 May [D. Dinsley]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

A resident breeder: widespread on the mainland and Mull, and colonising Islay.

Winter/spring Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (11), *Islay* (10), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (5), *Mid-Argyll* (20), *Mull* (20), *North Argyll* (6). Generally, 1-2 birds reported and a max of 4 together at Ostel Bay pond *Cowal* on 28 Apr. Drumming heard from Feb.

Summer/breeding Under reported. First fledged young noted at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jun. Fledged young also reported Carradale *Kintyre*, Ballygrant *Islay* and in *Mid-Argyll* at Cairnbaan and Bridgend.

Autumn/winter Reports and sites reported from; *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (11) and *North Argyll* (3) mainly of singles, but in *Mid-Argyll* 3 at Loch Caolisport on 10 Aug and 3 at Braevallich on 17 Aug.

GREEN WOODPECKER* *Picus viridis*

Rare: infrequent in Cowal in recent years as well as in Mid-Argyll, Mull and N Argyll. Breeding may have occurred in Kintyre in 1998. All records required.

Spring/summer Several reports by one observer in the Croig area, Loch Spelve *Mull* during Mar. One heard calling at Barnacarry, Strathlachlan *Cowal* on 19 Jun. *All reports welcome.*



Kestrel *Mull* Nov 2022 (*P. Walkden*)

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

AMBER LIST A *widespread, but declining, breeding bird. There is emigration from some areas in autumn and immigration to others.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. All reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (2), *Islay* (3), *Jura* (2), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Mull* (28), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (2). Four together at Gribun *Mull* on 21 Feb. Most frequent reports were in Feb and Mar.

Summer/breeding Thought to be fewer than 100 prs. 19 sites were checked of which only 8 were occupied by pairs and a min of 17 large young produced. A slightly better year than 2021, reflecting the increased vole numbers in *Kintyre* (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. All counts of 1-2 birds, except 3 seen at Kilwhipnach *Kintyre* on 8 Aug and 3 at Homeston *Kintyre* on 17 Aug.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

RED LIST *Breeds very locally on open moorland and bogs: more widely distributed on passage and in winter on low coastal ground and farmland.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Kintyre*). Most reports of wintering individuals Jan to early May. Most reports were from; *Tiree* (14), *Islay* (14), *Mull* (13), with other sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (1) and *North Argyll* (1). Up to 5 were on *Tiree* 20 Apr, then none until 18 Jul, and presumably Icelandic birds on migration.

Summer/breeding Thought to be fewer than 20 prs. The only report was of a pair in *Mid-Argyll* which fledged 3 young from an old crow nest in a Rowan, a fledged juv was at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 6 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Most reports were of singles, however up to 6 across *Tiree* in Nov. Most reports were from late Sep to Oct then fewer later in the year. Most reports by region were from; *Mull* (18), *Tiree* (15), *Islay* (11), *Coll* (4), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (3), *Colonsay* (2) and *Jura* (1).

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

A widespread but scarce breeding species in all areas of Argyll, with about 70 occupied territories in 2005. There have been indications of a decline in numbers breeding away from coastal areas. Found throughout the year in most areas.

All year Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds at sites across Argyll and most reports from *Islay*. Reports from all months. Max count away from nest sites of 3 at Traigh Crossapol *Coll* on 5 Jul.

Breeding Thought to be in the region of 50-70 prs. 30 sites were checked, 15 of which were occupied. Eggs were laid at least 10 of these, at least 7 of which were successful raising a min of 20 young (ARSG).

GOLDEN ORIOLE* *Oriolus oriolus*

RED LIST *A rare and irregular passage migrant, mainly in spring.*

Spring/summer A male was seen at Torr na Sealga, Ross of Mull *Mull* on 2 Jun.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

A widely distributed (but scarce) woodland resident on most of the mainland: rarely reported from the islands.

Winter/spring Reports, generally of 1-2 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (8), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (6) and *North Argyll* (3). Max counts of 5 at Penn Mor *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr and 4 at Kilninver *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan.

Summer/breeding All reports from mainland Argyll and *Mull* with generally 1-2 birds at sites and max count of 5 at Coshandrochit *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports of generally 1-3 birds from sites in; *Cowal* (2), *Kintyre* (6), *Mid-Argyll* (18), *Mull* (21) and *North Argyll* (7). Max counts of 9 at Balure *Kintyre* on 8 Oct and 7 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on the same day.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

A local breeder restricted to Cowal. Elsewhere, has been a scarce and sporadic visitor (mainly in spring): in recent years appearing to be becoming more widespread.

Winter/spring Reports from (*Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). *Mid-Argyll* had most reports, (8) sites, then *Cowal* (7), *Kintyre* (5) and *Islay* (5). Under reported from *Cowal* where more established and widespread than elsewhere in Argyll. Max counts of 3 at Brox Wood, Sandbank *Cowal* on 26 Feb. Five reports of singles on *Islay* during 30 Mar - 24 Apr, including two different birds on 1 Apr at Bridgend and Kilnaughton. Three reports of singles on *Mull* during 26 Jan - 22 Apr may relate to a wandering individual A series of records on *Colonsay* relate to a bird released there in 2021.

Summer/breeding Only report of breeding outwith *Cowal* was a nest found at *Stewarton Kintyre* in Apr (outcome unknown).

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in; *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (11), *Kintyre* (6) and *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (5). Outwith *Cowal* and *Kintyre* all reports were of singles.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

The Argyll islands hold the entire Scottish population. Islay is the stronghold, with smaller numbers on Oronsay and Colonsay. All records away from Islay are appreciated.

Winter/spring Reports from (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max counts; on *Islay* 50 were at Ardnave on 6 Mar, 30 at Kilchoman on 10 May, 20 at Leorin at 13 May and 10 at the Oa on 23 Mar. On *Colonsay* 4 were at Binnein Riabhach on 25 Mar.

Summer/breeding On *Islay* 75 potential nesting sites were checked and of these 38 were occupied, at which 30 breeding took place. A total of 34 chicks were ringed; 28 of which were still alive at the end of August (*Data provided by Eric Bignal*). On *Colonsay* 8 territorial pairs were found, three of which were immature pairs. Two of five nests failed, with the remaining three nests rearing 6 - 10. (*Data provided by David Jardine*).

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay*). Max counts received; on *Islay* 30 at Killinallan on 1 Nov and 27 at Ardnave on 3 Nov. On *Colonsay* 6 were at Traigh nam Barc on 26 Aug.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

A resident breeder, common throughout much of mainland Argyll: scarce on Mull and does not breed on Coll or Tiree. Breeding colonies are often located in towns and villages.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Higher counts received included; 320 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Feb, 190 at Dumlemble *Kintyre* on 14 Mar, 100 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 16 Feb, 70 at Broxwood, Sandbank *Cowal* on 26 Feb and 54 at Achuaran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 15 Apr. Elsewhere, 1 remained on *Tiree* from Jan - Apr. Under reported and few counts from usual strongholds in *S Kintyre* and *Islay*.

Summer/breeding Birds nest building in Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar was the only breeding report. Under reported.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Higher counts included; 700 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 21 Oct, 180 at Toward *Cowal* on 30 Sept, 140 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 3 Nov and 70 at Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 21 Oct. On 19 Oct, 55 were reported at Aros Park *Mull*, 30 at Balinoe *Tiree* and 25 at Friesland *Coll* suggesting an arrival from the north. Some of these stayed until the year end.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

AMBER LIST A resident breeder, common throughout much of Argyll, but scarce on Mull and does not breed on: Colonsay, Coll or Tiree. There can be a post breeding influx of juveniles to some islands, e.g. Mull and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Very under reported and few high counts received. Max count of 200 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 12 Feb, elsewhere 88 at Achuaran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 15 Apr, 70 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb and singles at Gleann Ullibh *Jura* on 12 Mar and >N Binnien Riabhach *Colonsay* on 18 Mar.

Summer/breeding Activity at nesting sites from late Feb. On *Islay* 138 AON at RSPB Loch Gruinart. In *Kintyre* (AONs), 22 at Cruach Muasdale, 9 at Muasdale, 9 at Auchavae, 17 at Escart

Farm and 78 at Clachan. On *Mull* 12 AON on Iona, and on Lismore *North Argyll* a total of 48 AON at 3 sites.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura/Tiree*). Few counts received. Most reports of up to 30 birds. Max counts of 50+ at Loch Meldalloch *Cowal* on 8 Sep, 54 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Oct, 35 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 29 Sep and 30 on Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep. Notably a single at Cliad – Grishipoll *Coll* on 20 Oct.



Rook *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2022 (J. Dickson)

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

A sedentary resident: mainly in east Cowal and parts of Mid-Argyll, in a variety of mainly low ground habitats. It hybridises readily with Hooded Crow where ranges overlap.

Winter/spring Most reports from usual strong hold areas of *Cowal* however max counts of 25 at Gairletter Pt *Cowal* on 26 Feb and 12 at Sandbank *Cowal* on 26 Feb. Elsewhere, 1-2 reported at sites in *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Islay* (12), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (6), *Kintyre* (3), *Colonsay* (2) and *Jura* (1) with max counts in *Islay* of 11 at Loch Gruinart on 1 Dec, in *North Argyll* of 5 at North Ledaig on 4 Apr, and in *Mid-Argyll* of 4 at Stroneskar on 9 Jan.

Summer/breeding No breeding data received. Several birds paired with Hooded Crow.

Autumn/winter More reports from sites in *Mid-Argyll* (13) than from *Cowal* (11) indicating the spread of this species. Elsewhere, 1-2 reported at sites in *North Argyll* (5), *Kintyre* (5), *Islay* (5), *Mull* (4), and *Colonsay* (1), with max counts of 6 at Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre* on 11 Oct, 5 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Nov and 3 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 20 Aug.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix*

A widespread, and very common, resident breeding species.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Numbers reported generally low, with 1-10 birds from sites. Max counts of 87 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 1 Mar and 60 there on 31 May, 70 at Stroneskar *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 25 at Kinloch *Mull* on 13 Feb.

Summer/breeding On *Colonsay* 45+ Ters noted, 32 monitored, of which outcome of 7 unknown, 8 failed and 17 produced 33 young. On *Islay* 15 prs recorded on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-10 and several up to 20 birds. Max counts of 55 heading to roost at Kiloran *Colonsay* on 12 Oct, 40 at Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov, 35 on *Tiree* on 28 Dec, 31 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 11 Dec and 25 at West Loch Tarbert *Kintyre* on 5 Nov.

HYBRID CROW *Corvus corone x cornix*

Hybrids between Carrion and Hooded Crow are most prevalent where the ranges of the two species overlap. Any records are welcome as they will help to document the change in position of the hybrid zone, which is known to have moved north westwards.

All year Reports of small nos from (*Coll/Cowal/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 8 at Stroneskar *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 5 at Gairletter Pt. *Cowal* on 26 Feb. Elsewhere 2 at Gallanach *Coll* on 20 Jan, 1 at Kellan, Loch na Keal *Mull* on 19 Jan and 1 at Loch Spitheig *Jura* on 24 Mar.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

A common resident breeding species on both the mainland and islands: large flocks may occur, especially in winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts received of over 100 at Lingerton landfill site *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Jan, 40 at Hough *Tiree* on 19 Mar and 18 An Sgriodon *Mull* on 23 Mar.

Summer/breeding Prs and displaying birds noted from Jan. On *Colonsay* 12 Ters, 7 proved breeding produced 13 young from 6 nests with 1 nest outcome unknown. On *Tiree* 17 Ters 5 proved breeding produced 20 young. Elsewhere, another 46 Ters reported and at least 46 yng reared from 26 sites (1 failed, 5 outcome unknown) (ARSG).

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of 1-2 birds with several counts of up to 20. Max counts included: 110 at Allt Coire Cheathaich *Cowal* on 24 Jun, 65 at Lingerton landfill site *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul, 23 at The Oa *Islay* on 26 Aug, 20 at Rairraig *Mull* on 30 Aug and 18 at Traigh Bhagh *Tiree* on 29 Oct feeding on dead seals.

WAXWING* *Bombycilla garrulus*

An irruptive winter visitor in varying numbers: not seen every year but some large influxes have occurred recently.

Winter/spring One was at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan.

Autumn/winter Singles were at Tarbert *Kintyre* on 16 Nov, Fionnphort *Mull* on 20 Nov, Port Charlotte *Islay* on 20 Nov, at two sites in Carradale *Kintyre* on 23 & 24 Nov and in Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 26 - 31 Dec.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

A widespread and abundant resident breeder: except on Coll and Tiree. Found almost exclusively in woodland, especially conifers.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Higher counts of 13 at Garmony *Mull* on 24 Feb, 10 at River Eachaig *Cowal* on 28 Mar, 8 at Carse of Achnabreck on 8 Jan and 8 on Scarba on 24 Jan, both *Mid-Argyll*.

Summer/breeding Few data received.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, only 1-3 birds at sites. Max count of 10 at Colonsay House *Colonsay* on 5 Jul.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A widespread and common resident breeder: an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). All reports of 1-10 birds. Most reports from *Mull* at 32 sites.

Summer/breeding Generally, 1-8 birds noted at sites and a max of 14 at Rhudle, Drimvore BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. In *Kintyre* nest box ringing studies only 12 chicks were ringed which was a poor season.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, up to 6 birds at sites, 36 caught for ringing at Brochroy *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Dec and 34 ringed in a Barcaldine garden *North Argyll* on 12 Dec.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

A widespread and common resident breeder: only an infrequent visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll*), with max counts on 7 at Crarae Gardens *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Mar and 5 at River Eachaig *Cowal* on 28 Mar. Notably one was at Caolas *Tiree* on 19 Apr.

Summer/breeding Most reports from *Mid-Argyll* and *Mull* and a max count of 9 at Rhudle, Drimvore BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May. In *Kintyre* nest box ringing studies 71 chicks were ringed.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). All reports of 1-6 birds.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

RED LIST **A widespread breeding species: common in some areas. Many emigrate in winter, with remaining birds mainly in coastal and low-lying localities.**

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Reports well up on last year. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (39 cf 8 in 2021 & 17 in 2020), *Mid-Argyll* (8 cf 11 in 2021), *Kintyre* (14 cf 5 in 2021) and *Islay* (34 cf 4 in 2021). Only three area reports in Jan (*Colonsay/Islay/Tiree*) with more birds returning across *Argyll* during Feb, noted from 30 sites. Higher counts inc., 140 at Ruaig *Tiree* on 5 Jan, 84 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 17 Feb, 73 at the Laggan *Kintyre* on 30 Mar, 60 at The Oa *Islay* on 13 Mar and 36 on Iona *Mull* on 29 Mar. Some birds giving a burst of song on brighter days in Feb on *Tiree* and full song noted from 7 Mar.

Summer/breeding Little specific breeding data other than 114 prs found on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and 3 young found on Shuna *North Argyll* on 9 Jul. Reports received from all areas. Most reports from sites on *Mull* (37) and *Islay* (21) birds also noted widely across *Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Relatively few reports received from all areas except (*Coll/Jura*). Most birds departing during Sep and early Oct. Only a few modest counts received: on *Tiree* 50 were at The Reef on 26 Sep and 55 at Balephetrish Hill on 29 Sep and 60 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre* on 12 Oct. Most other reports were <10 birds and only 8 reports in Nov, with a max. of 20 at The Reef *Tiree* on 22 Nov, and 4 reports in Dec, when 6 were at Rhunahaorine Pt *Kintyre* on 10 Dec.



Skylark *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2022 (J. Dickson)

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor: localised breeding species and passage migrant. All breeding records required.*

Spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals were 8 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 10 Mar, 1 was at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 18 Mar, 2 at Moine Mhor *Mid-Argyll* and 3 N of Campbeltown *Kintyre* on 19 Mar. More widespread from mid Apr. Highest counts inc., 150 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 13 May, ca 100 at Knock *Mull* on 25 May, 65 at Gruinart Floods *Islay* on 19 Apr and 30 at Gorsten *Mull* on 15 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited data on breeding colonies received. On *Islay* 26 AOBs at RSPB Ardnave and 50 AOBs at Craighens, Gruinart. At Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* 87 AOBs and 14+ AOBs at 2 sites on *Colonsay*. 12 AOBs at West Tarbert, Gigha *Kintyre* and on *Tiree* 190 AOBs at 11 sites, mostly at Loch a' Phuill (80+ AOBs), On *Coll* 2 AOBs on Gunna Is, plus others on the main island itself. In *North Argyll* at least 30 AOBs nr Connel airfield. In *Kintyre* ringing studies monitored three sites. Two sites held 18 and 20 AOBs. At the main site at Langa Quarry the slopes were profiled, thus discouraging nesting, but the site was still in use with 156 birds ringed/processed (*cf* 500 in 2021).

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay*). Most birds had departed by mid-Sep. Highest counts 110 at Homeston Burn *Kintyre* on 20 Aug, 90 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 2 Sep, 50 at Ardnave Loch *Islay* on 4 Sep and 20 at Traigh Crossapol *Coll* on 5 Jul. The last bird reported was 1 at Lephinstrath Br. *Kintyre* on 1 Oct.



Sand Martin *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2022 (J. Lehmann)

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A widespread, common, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 1 at Loch Gorm *Islay* on 26 Mar, 1 at Ellister *Islay* on 30 Mar, 1 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Apr, 1 at Scarinish *Tiree* on 6 Apr, and 1 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Apr. Counts noted from late Apr of generally fewer than 10 birds and a max noted of 80 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 9 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. 12 prs noted on RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Five first broods on *Tiree* with first fledged juvs noted on 2 Jul. Second brood noted on Aird Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug and several late broods on *Tiree* with latest fledging on 11 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Max counts of 170+ at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 9 Aug, 140 at Ardmore, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Aug, 120 on *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 100+ at Loch Melldalloch *Cowal* on 8 Sept and 80 at Craigens *Islay* on 3 Sep. Thereafter, fewer with 30 at Staffa *Mull* on 22 Sep and 30 at Craignure *Mull* on 4 Oct and scattered reports of 3 singles in Nov, with last reports at Balure *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Nov, Cornabus, The Oa *Islay* on 12 Nov and Lagavulin *Islay* on 19 Nov.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

RED LIST A common summer visitor on the mainland: less numerous on the islands with only a handful of recently recorded breeding attempts on Tiree.

Spring Reports from all areas. First reports were 4 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 5 Apr, 2 at Kellans *Mull* on 12 Apr, 1 at Lephinsthath *Kintyre* on 14 Apr, 1 at Clachaig *Cowal* on 24 Apr and 6 at Achnabreck *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, with many arriving in early May. Highest count received of only 15 at Knock *Mull* on 25 May.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. AONs were found at Colonsay House *Colonsay*, and Loch Tulla *North Argyll* and a used nest was found at Feolin *Jura*. No pairs nested *Tiree*. Max count of 25 (incl juvs) at the *Mid-Argyll* Hospital, Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 7 Jul. Three birds were still at a nest at Ardantrive, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max counts of 90 at Homeston *Kintyre* on 20 Aug, 25 at Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Aug and 20 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 4 Sep. Most birds had departed by early Sep, with a late group of 7 at Garmony *Mull* reported on 23 Sep and the last report was of 3 at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 14 Oct.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

A widespread and fairly common resident: scarce on Colonsay and a rare visitor to Coll and Tiree.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Jura/Tiree*). Appears to have been under reported. Most counts of 1-2 birds and max counts of 8 in Glen Shira *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Jan and 6 at Garmony *Mull* on 12 Jan and 26 Feb.

Summer/breeding Limited data. Family party of 8 Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Sep.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most counts of 1-12 birds and mostly from sites in *Mull* (17), *Mid-Argyll* (16), *Cowal* (8), *Kintyre* (8), and *North Argyll* (8). Max counts of 50 at Balliemore, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Oct, 22 at Barnluasgan *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Nov, 20 at Achamore House, Gigha *Kintyre* on 2 Nov, 18 at the head of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 21 Oct, and 15 at Kildalton Woods *Islay* on 17 Sep. Up to 4 at Balephuill *Tiree* 19-20 Oct & 3 on 5 Nov and 2 at Arinagour *Coll* on 8 Oct.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

AMBER LIST A widespread and abundant summer visitor.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrival was 1 at Kinnabus *Islay* on 24 Mar followed by 1 at Cornabus *Islay* on 25 Mar, 1 on Scarba *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Mar, 1 at Aros Park *Mull* on 3 Apr, 1 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Apr, 1 at Eriska *North Argyll* on 6 Apr and 1 at Machrihanish *Kintyre* on 10 Apr, more widespread arrivals from 13 Apr. Higher counts inc. 61 at Allt Coire Cheathaich *Cowal* on 24 Apr, 11 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Apr and 10 Abhainn Shira *North Argyll* on 22 May.

Summer/breeding Singing males widespread across Argyll from mid-Apr. Higher breeding counts included; 27 Ters at Kilmichael Forest BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr, 23 Ters at Bellanoch BBS *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr, On *Tiree* 11 Ters across 5 sites in Jun. Ads feeding 2 juvs at Bushmill *Islay* on 2 Jun and fledged juvs on *Tiree* from 25 Jun. At Treshnish Is. *Mull* one calling on Lunga, on 27 Jun was only the fifth record there.

Autumn/winter Number of reports decreased, and birds departed by late Aug and in Sep reports from only (*Mid-Argyll/North Argyll/Tiree*) with late 2 birds at Vaul *Tiree* on 12 Oct, and singles at The Oa *Islay* on 17 Oct, Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Oct and Balure, Loch Etive *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Oct.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

A summer visitor and local breeding species: occasionally recorded in winter. More frequent on passage on some of the islands.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (24), *Cowal* (21) and *Mull* (21). No winter reports. First arrivals of singles at Balephuill *Tiree* on 3 Mar and one at Dervaig *Mull* the following day, but the next birds did not arrive until mid-Mar when birds were in song at Carsaig *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 17 Mar, and at Eriska *North Argyll*, Kames *Cowal* and Cornabus *Islay* on 18 Mar. More widespread arrivals from 23 Mar. All counts of 1-3 birds.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. On *Colonsay* 3 Ters noted.

Autumn/winter Reports from only (*Coll/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) and most local birds had departed by mid-Sep. Late birds in Oct on *Tiree* were 4 singles to 30 Oct and singles at Balephuill on 9-25 Nov and 1-16 Dec with 2 there on 18 Nov.



'Siberian' Chiffchaff *Mull* Dec 2022 (P. Walkden)

'SIBERIAN' CHIFFCHAFF* *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

A rare visitor: an eastern race of Chiffchaff, still regarded as a sub-species of Common Chiffchaff, rather than a distinct separate species. Rare in Argyll, although small numbers of this race occur during late autumn in Scotland.

Winter Singles showing characteristics of this sub-species were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 6 Jan [J. Bowler] and at Dervaig *Mull* on 2 Feb [E. Miles].

Autumn Singles showing characteristics of this sub-species were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 28 Nov [J. Bowler] and at Dervaig *Mull* on 1 Dec [P. Walkden, E. Miles].

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

RED LIST *A scarce but widely distributed summer visitor to mature broadleaved woodlands. Infrequent on Islay and Jura and only occurs as a rare passage migrant on Coll and Tiree.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from only (*Cowal/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*). First reports were of singing birds at Ardura Forest and Grasspoint, both *Mull*, on 21 Apr, 2 at Castle Lachlan *Cowal* on 22 Apr, at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Apr and Erines *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr. Singing males reported from sites in; *Cowal* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (13), *Mull* (19) and *North Argyll* (9). One was at Whitefarland Bay *Jura* on 14 May.

Autumn A single at Ardmore Bay *Mull* on 9 Aug was the last report.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER* *Phylloscopus inornatus*

A scarce autumn migrant from east of the Urals: at least 130 birds between 1954 and 2021, the majority on Tiree. A record 37 birds occurred in 2020.

Autumn Two were at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24-25 Sep and another there on 17 Oct [J. Bowler *et al*]. One was at Craignure *Mull* on 27 Nov-3 Dec [C. Austick, S. Gibson, N. Somerville]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.

After an Argyll record total of at least 37 birds in 2020 there were only three confirmed birds in 2021 and only four in 2022.

GREENISH WARBLER* *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

A Vagrant: three records; one trapped on 27 May 1983 at the *Mull of Kintyre lighthouse*, later taken into care and died, one trapped at *Sanda, Kintyre* on 31 Jul 1987 and one in song at *Loch Turraman Colonsay* on 15 Jun 2017.

Spring/summer One was photographed and in song (recorded) at a conifer forest site, east of *Sandbank Cowal* on 16 Jun [A. Ash]. Record was accepted by the SBRC.



Sedge Warbler *Mid-Argyll* May 2022 (J. Speirs)

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

AMBER LIST A *locally common summer visitor, breeding in suitable habitats.*

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals of singles at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* and Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 19 Apr, Dervaig *Mull* and Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 Apr, Kilbride *Coll* on 26 Apr and Kilbride Farm *Cowal* on 28 Apr. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (20) and *Mid-Argyll* (14).

Summer/breeding On *Islay* noted as widespread & present at RSPB Loch Gruinart, 23 Ters on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve. Numerous Ters across *Tiree* from 23 Apr. Few counts or breeding data received from elsewhere. First fledglings on *Tiree* noted from 17 Jul and on 27 Jul at *Kilmun Cowal*.

Autumn A few remained at the Add Estuary *Mid-Argyll* until mid-Aug, but on *Colonsay* 4 were still at East Loch Fada on 26 Aug. In Sep the last birds seen were singles at Ardantrive reedbed,

Kerrera on 5 Sep and Blackmill Bay, Luing on 7 Sep (both *Mid-Argyll*), and on *Tiree* up to 3 birds at Balephuill to 9 Sep, with 1 there 10-15 Sep.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

RED LIST *A summer visitor: breeding locally in open habitats with dense ground vegetation, including young conifer plantations. Numbers fluctuate from year to year.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals of ‘reeling’ birds at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* on 14 Apr, Cairnbaan and Kimichael Glen, both *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, thereafter widespread arrivals across Argyll from 19 Apr. Most reports from sites in; *Mid-Argyll* (21) and *Cowal* (18). On *Colonsay* 8 Ters. On *Islay* 12 Ters at RSPB Oa Reserve and 15 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart. On *Tiree* noted at 2 sites including 2 Ters at Balephuill with 2 juvs noted there on 13 Jul.

Autumn Reports decreased during Jul and a few reports of singles from (*Coll/Colonsay/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll*) until the last reported at Loch Breac *Colonsay* on 28 Aug.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

A common summer visitor and regular passage migrant especially in autumn: an increasing number winter in Argyll.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Winter report of a male at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Jan and then again on 1 & 6 Mar. First arrivals of singles at Calgary *Mull* and Arinagour *Coll* on 23 Mar, Kilkenneth *Tiree* on 7 Apr, Campbeltown *Kintyre* (2 in song) on 8 Apr and Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Apr then more widespread after 12 Apr, with most arrivals noted around 17 Apr. Up to 6 singles at Balephuill *Tiree* during May.

Summer/breeding Widespread reports of males in song across Argyll with most in mainland areas particularly *Mid-Argyll* and *Cowal*, and also on *Mull*. On *Colonsay* 12 Ters recorded, at least 6 Ters Crarae Gardens *Mid-Argyll* and 7 Ters RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Fledged broods reported at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 10 Jul and at Saddell Bay *Kintyre* on 29 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from areas by month; Sep (11), Oct (11), Nov (10) and Dec (3). Max counts of at least 6 birds across *Tiree* on 24 Oct. In Nov singles from sites in *Islay* and *Mid-Argyll* and 3 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 1 Nov. In Dec, 2 were at Port Ellen *Islay* on 25 Dec and a single was at Craignure *Mull* on 16 Dec.



Garden Warbler *Tiree* Sep 2022 (D. Jardine)

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

A scarce but increasing summer visitor: breeding in woodland and scrub habitats.

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (3), *North Argyll* (2) and *Tiree* (1). First arrival was at Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 15 Apr, but next singles not until 1 at Taynish NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Apr, 2 at Aros *Mull* on 21 Apr, 1 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 23 Apr, 1 at Striven Power Stn *Cowal* on 29 Apr, 1 at The Lodge *Coll* on 4 May and 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 19 May.

Autumn Singles on *Tiree* at Balephuill on 27 Aug and 22-28 Sep, at Sorobaidh Bay on 9 Sep and at the Glebe 29 Sep.

BARRED WARBLER* *Curruca nisoria*

A rare passage migrant: 20 previous records: all have been in autumn and the majority on Tiree.

Autumn A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 14 Sep [J. Bowler]. Record was accepted by the ABRC.

LESSER WHITETHROAT* *Curruca curruca*

A rare/scarce passage migrant in both spring and autumn: most recent records have been from the islands.

Spring/summer On *Tiree* 1 was at Balephuill on 7 May and another, in song, at The Glebe on 17 May.

Autumn On *Tiree* singles were at Balephuill on 2 & 7 Sep with 3 there on 20 Sep and 1 on 21-30 Sep.

‘SIBERIAN’ LESSER WHITETHROAT* *Curruca curruca blythi*

Recently reinstated as a race and not currently assessed as DNA analysis required to separate from the Central Asian race *S. c. halimodendri*. One showing characteristics of this race was at Balephuill *Tiree* in Oct 2014, possibly two more on *Tiree* in Oct 2016 and one on *Islay* Nov-Dec 2017.

Autumn Birds showing characteristics of this sub-species were at Balephuill *Tiree* from at least mid-Oct & perhaps from end Sep, until at least 20 Nov [J. Bowler, J. Dickson] and at Arinagour *Coll* on 19 Oct [A. Tonge].

WHITETHROAT *Curruca communis*

AMBER LIST A summer visitor with numbers fluctuating from year to year: breeding is most widespread in low lying areas, particularly in coastal scrub.

Spring Reports from all areas. First arrivals were 2 at Bellanoch *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr, 1 at Carskey Bay *Kintyre* on 20 Apr, 1 at Port Wemyss *Islay* on 21 Apr, 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 26 Apr and 2 at Dunoon *Cowal* on 28 Apr, then more widespread arrivals from early May.

Breeding/summer Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (53), *Mid-Argyll* (31), *Islay* (10), *Kintyre* (9), *Tiree* (8), *Coll* (7) and *North Argyll* (7). On *Colonsay* 39 Ters recorded, with another on Oronsay. On *Islay* 27 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart, also noted as present at RSPB Oa Reserve and RSPB Ardnave. In *Mid-Argyll* 3 Ters Kilmichael Glen. On *Tiree* males in song at 5 sites and confirmed nesting with fledglings at 1 site on 30 Jun.

Autumn Reports decreased during Aug and most birds had departed by early Sep. Last reports of singles at Balemartine *Tiree* on 10 Sep, at Port Wemyss *Islay* and Totamore *Coll* on 13 Sep and Carradale Bay *Kintyre* on 24 Oct – latest ever in Argyll, previously 4 Oct, in 1998.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

A rare visitor with only nine previous Argyll records. The last record was on Tiree in Nov 2020.

Autumn One was at Balephuill Tiree on 22-24 Oct [J. Dickson]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A common resident breeding species: augmented by passage migrants.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-2 birds from sites and max counts of 7 on Mull at Garmony on 1 May and Aros Cottage on 4 May and Ardcastle Wood Mid-Argyll on 18 Apr. Strong passage on Tiree where 23+ birds at 6 sites between 15 and 31 Mar including 6 at Balephuill on 24 Mar.

Summer/breeding Singing birds noted from late Apr. In Mid-Argyll 4 found on BBS transects at Bellanoch and 5 at Kilmichael Forest. Family parties noted at Arinagour Coll on 7 Jul and Lochgilphead Mid-Argyll on 10 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas with counts of generally 1-2 birds. Max count of 10+ at Bridgend Mid-Argyll on 19 Sep. First migrants on Tiree with 2 at Balephuill on 27 Aug, 12 scattered birds in Sep, 16 in Oct with max of 3 at Balephuill on 9 and 22 Oct and last singles at Balephuill on 25 Nov and at Crossapol on 28 Nov.



Wren Mull May 2022 (P. Walkden)

WREN *Trogodytes troglodytes*

AMBER LIST A *a common resident breeder in all areas: numbers often decline following hard winters; additional birds winter on the islands.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds at sites. Max count of 13 at River Eachaig Cowal on 23 Mar. Birds singing from late Mar.

Summer/breeding In *Mid-Argyll* at BBS sites singing males in Jun; with 27 at Blarbuie, Kilmichael Forest on 18 Apr, 22 at Bellanoch on 28 Apr and 18 at Rhudle Mill on 10 Jun (*cf* 7 in 2021). On *Oronsay Colonsay* at least 12 Ters on 21 Apr, on *Coll* at least 3 Ters at The Lodge, Arinagour on 11 May. On *Tiree* 32+ Ters at 17 sites in May and first fledged b/6 on 18 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted at most sites, with max counts of 9 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug and 8 at Calgary *Mull* on 6 Aug.



Nuthatch *Mid-Argyll* Nov 2022 (*Linda Gibson*)

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Now becoming an established breeder in mainland Argyll and Mull; a survey in 2021 found around 150 pairs. Still scarce in Kintyre and the other islands

Winter/spring Many fewer reports from (sites) *Cowal* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (24), and *North Argyll* (3), this year reflecting survey in 2021. All reports of 1-2. Birds singing from mid-Mar.

Summer/breeding Nest building noted Strath of Orchy *North Argyll* on 26 Mar. A nest at Barran, Dalmally *Mid-Argyll* was taken over by Blue Tits. Four, inc. fledged young, Minard *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Jun and 4 at the Head of Loch Creran *North Argyll* on 10 Jul, otherwise reports of 1-2 birds.

Autumn/winter Reports from (sites) *Cowal* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (1), *North Argyll* (3). All sightings of 1-2 birds, except in *Mid-Argyll* where 4 at Loch Caolisport on 10 Aug and 3 at Lochgilphead on 30 Dec.

2021 survey results at: [2021 Argyll Bird Club Nuthatch Survey Results – Argyll Bird Club](#)

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

A widespread and fairly common resident: rare on Tiree and Coll.

Winter/spring Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Colonsay* (2), *Cowal* (19), *Islay* (5), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (7), *Mull* (13) and *North Argyll* (5). Max counts of 6 at Lochgilphead *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan, 4+ at River Forsa mouth *Mull* on 13 May and 4 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Max reports of 7 Ters Carradale *Kintyre*, with the first juv seen there on 10 May.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (1), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (14) and *North Argyll* (3). Generally under reported.

ROSY STARLING* *Pastor roseus*

A rare summer and autumn visitor: More frequent in recent years.

Summer A 2cy was in a garden in central Oban *Mid-Argyll* on 9-11 Jun [P. Blunsden]. A 2cy/ad fem was at Knockvologan, S of Fionnphort *Mull* on 23-25 Jun [W. Cook *et al*]. An adult was in a garden in central Bowmore *Islay* on 25-30 Jun [J. & R. McCowan, G. Turnbull].

Autumn A juvenile was at Vaul *Tiree* on 8 Nov [J. Dickson]. *All records were accepted by the ABRC. After recent high totals of nine (2018), eight (2020) and 19 (2021) a much poorer show this year.*

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

RED LIST A common resident on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay, part of Kintyre, and Tiree, less common on most of the mainland. Flocks containing juveniles appear in many parts in late summer and numbers are boosted by immigration in winter from north-west Europe.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Largest flocks noted in (*Kintyre/Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*). Several flocks of 500-1,000 birds across *Tiree* in Jan-Mar. On *Islay* 1,000 were at Loch Gruinart on 14 Feb and 370 at The Oa on 26 Jan, and in *Kintyre* 1,300 were at Dalivaddy and 300 at Drumlemble on 14 Mar. 440 were on *Iona Mull* on 28 Feb and on *Coll* 500 at Crossapol on 27 Jan. Elsewhere, most counts were below 30 birds.

Summer/breeding Limited data supplied. First fledged juvs at Bridgend *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May and there was a mass synchronised fledging across *Tiree* on 28 May. Large flocks of juveniles built up in numbers from mid-Jun on *Colonsay, Islay* and *Tiree*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Largest flocks noted in (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Many flocks on *Tiree* of 300-1,000 and max counts there of 1,600 at Vaul on 27 Sep, 1,200 at Salum on 29 Aug, 1,200 at Beinn Hough on 28 Sep and 1,200 at Balevulin on 3 Oct. Elsewhere, on the 'islands', 900 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 4 Sep, 500 at Ardnave *Islay* on 6 Nov, 200 at Kiloran Dunes *Colonsay* on 16 Oct, 200 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 7 Aug and 109 on *Iona Mull* on 31 Aug. Highest 'mainland' counts of 500 at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 25 Dec, 300 at West Darlochan *Kintyre* on 22 Dec and 200 at Kilchatton, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 1 Dec.

RING OUZEL* *Turdus torquatus*

RED LIST A summer visitor; breeding very locally in upland areas but declining in numbers: more widespread, though still very scarce, on migration. All records required please.

Winter A male was reported at Easter Ellister *Islay* on 24 Jan.

Spring/summer Singles fems were at Glen Shira *Mid-Argyll* on 27 Apr, on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 29 Apr, on Sron an Cabar *North Argyll* on 29 Apr, a male at The Oa *Islay* on 2 May, at Gualachaolish *Mull* on 7 May, on A' Chrois *Cowal* on 15 May, 3 seen together in flight from Tarbert to W L Tarbert track *Jura* on 18 May, and 2 were on Stob Daimh and 1 on Meall Cuanail both *North Argyll* on 28 May.

Autumn One at Ardura *Mull* on 28 Sep was the only autumn report.

A return to a more normal year, following the higher numbers in 2021.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

A widespread breeding species: common and locally abundant resident. There is immigration in winter and noticeable autumn passage in some years with some remaining during winter.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally low counts of only 1-6 birds received. Max counts of 15 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 25 Feb, 10 at Bridgend *Islay* on 13 Feb and 10 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on the same day.

Summer/breeding Limited data. Two pairs on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. First fledged birds noted at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May, at Killiechronan *Mull* on 14 May and first fledged birds on *Tiree* from 18 May.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-6 birds. A small influx in late Oct e.g. 20 at Normann's Ruh *Mull* on 23 Oct and 15 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 21 Oct. Higher counts inc. 300 around *Tiree* on 21 Nov, 26 at Lagavullin *Islay* on 29 Dec and 20 at Loch na Cuilce *Mull* on 24 Sep.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

RED LIST *A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain in winter or passing through in spring.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Coll/Cowal/Islay/Jura/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). Higher counts on *Islay* of 110 at Loch Gruinart on 3 Feb, 100 at Loch Skerrols on 26 Feb and 60 at The Oa on 5 Jan. Elsewhere, 80 were at Drimvore *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan, 22 at Stroneskar *Mid-Argyll* on 9 Jan and 21 at Kilfinan *Cowal* on 16 Feb. All other reports of 1-20 birds.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Colonsay/Jura*). First arrivals; at Port Charlotte *Islay* on 14 Oct and then 3 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 17 Oct. Main arrivals from 19 Oct, when 2,690 over Tayinloan *Kintyre* and 550 were at The Oa *Islay*. On 20 Oct 150 were at Middleton *Tiree* and in *Kintyre* 400 at Lephonstrath Br and 150 at Port Righ. In Nov max counts (of 100+) included; 300 were at The Oa *Islay* on 1 & 16 Nov, 150 at Inverneill *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Nov, 120 at Avenvogie Farm *Islay* on 9 Nov and 110 at Sorobaidh Bay *Tiree* on 18 Nov. Many fewer were present in Dec when 70 were at the Oa *Islay* on 6 Dec and 59 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Dec.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

AMBER LIST *A passage migrant and winter visitor: abundant in autumn but relatively few remain during winter. Occasional individuals are recorded in late spring or summer. The species bred on Mull in 1991 but there have been no subsequent breeding records.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally widespread in low numbers of 1-20 birds. Higher counts of groups inc., on *Tiree* 250 on were present on 8-9 Feb, 100 on 7-9 Mar and 150 on 11-12 Mar. Elsewhere; 80 at Appin *North Argyll* on 20 Jan, 60 at Quinish *Mull* on 26-27 Feb and 60 at Eorrabus *Islay* on 7 Mar. Several in sub-song at Balinoe *Tiree* on 19 Mar.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First arrivals; single at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 27 Sep, then small groups of 1-6 birds at four locations on 29 Sep on *Islay* and *Mull*. First larger flocks noted from 15 Oct with 780 at Lephonstrath *Kintyre*, then on 19 Oct 8,380 were over Tayinloan *Kintyre* and 1,100 on *Tiree* (inc. 600 at Balephuill inc. many Scandinavian birds), 3,500 at Middleton *Tiree* on 20 Oct, with 5,000+ on the island on 23-30 Oct, 3,100 remained on 1 Nov, but declined after 3 Nov. A vast arrival was noted on *Coll* on 21 Oct, 800 were at 2 sites on Colonsay on 24 Oct, 700 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 1 Nov and 500 were at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 23 Oct. Many smaller groups of 25-200 birds noted from Oct - Dec. Numbers rose on *Tiree* from 600 to 1,000 in Dec as a result of freezing conditions on the mainland.



Song Thrush *Mid-Argyll* Jun 2022 (J. Dickson)

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

AMBER LIST A *widespread and common resident breeding species with some locally bred birds departing in the autumn. There is a noticeable autumn passage, with other birds arriving for the winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, reports of only 1-5 birds. Max counts of 7 at Duart Castle *Mull* on 15 May, 6 at Tobermory *Mull* on 30 Apr and 6 on Iona *Mull* on 28 May.

Summer/breeding Birds in song from mid- Feb on sunny days. 12 prs found on transects on the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and *ca* 30 Ters found on *Tiree* in May. The first fledged birds noted at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 3 May and on 18 May on *Tiree*. Fledgling from successful second brood noted in Balnoe *Tiree* on 3 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, just 1-2 birds noted at sites. Higher counts inc., 15 at Coultorsay *Islay* on 20 Sep, 13 at Scalasaig *Colonsay* on 17 Oct, 13 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 22 Oct, 16 at The Oa *Islay* on 1 Nov and 60 around *Tiree* on 21 Nov with other thrushes, Migrants included a bright continental type *philomelos* with Fieldfares at Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 19 Oct.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

RED LIST A *widespread but thinly distributed resident breeding species. On Coll and Tiree it is only an occasional visitor. Flocks are sometimes seen on passage.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Tiree*). Generally, sightings of 1-4 birds, however 7 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Jan and 7 at Quinish *Mull* on 26 Feb. Most reports from sites in *Mull* (43), *Islay* (21) and *Mid-Argyll* (18).

Summer/breeding Limited data submitted. 1 pr RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Fledged young noted inc. a group of 10 ads and juv at Duilletter *Mid-Argyll* on 8 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Generally, sightings of 1-8 birds. Most reports from sites in *Islay* (18), *Mid-Argyll* (12) and *Mull* (20). Max counts of 22 at Kinnabur

Islay on 30 Jun, 20 in Kilmichael Glen *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Oct, 20 at Langamull *Mull* on 4 Oct, 20 at Lephinstrath Br *Kintyre* on 21 Oct and 16 at Druim a' Bhlair *North Argyll* on 11 Aug.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

RED LIST A *summer visitor breeding widely, but sparsely, in mature woodlands; particularly where there are gaps in the canopy or along edges. Regular passage migrant on the islands.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). First reports were 1 at Craignure *Mull* on 10 May, 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 12 May, then 2 at Dalvore *Mid-Argyll* and 1 at Clachaig *Cowal* on 14 May. More widespread reports from 15 May, slightly later than 2021. Reports came from sites in *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Cowal* (6), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (3), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (23), *North Argyll* (5) and *Tiree* (5).

Breeding Generally under reported, but 7 Ters found on *Colonsay*, 2 Ters at Barsloisnach, 1 Ter Cairnbaan and b/4 found in Kilmartin (all *Mid-Argyll*) and 2 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay*. Fledged juvs noted at Croggan *Mull* on 6 Jul.

Autumn Most local breeding birds had departed by mid-Aug, with late birds reported at Balephuill *Tiree* on 4-6 Sep, Ballimore, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 5 Sep, Gruinart *Islay* on 8 Sep, Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 10 Sep and Toward *Cowal* on 13 Sep.



Spotted Flycatcher *Kintyre* Jun 2022 (A. Hand)

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

A widespread and common resident breeder: a migrant only on Tiree. Small numbers now breed regularly on Coll. Autumn passage is noticeable on the islands with many migrants overwintering.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, only 1-4 birds at sites. Max counts of 12 at Dunollie *Mid-Argyll* on 27 May, 10 at Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 13 Feb, 8 at Ormsaig *Mull* on 8 May and 8 at River Eachaig *Cowal* on 28 Mar.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. BBS count of 21 at Blairbuie, Kilmichael Forest *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Apr. None bred on *Tiree* but a lone juvenile arrived at Balephuill on 27 Jun which then stayed there for the autumn. Fledged birds at Ulva Ferry *Mull* on 31 May and Bruichladdich *Islay* on 2 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports of 1-4 birds. Max counts of 13 Coille a' Mhinisteir, Ulva *Mull* on 29 Aug and 15+ Slockavullin *Mid-Argyll* on 18 Nov. 19 caught for ringing in a Barcaldine garden *North Argyll* on 12 Dec. Widespread across *Tiree* in late Sep-Dec.



Red-breasted Flycatcher *Tiree* Sep 2022 (J. Bowler)

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER* *Ficedula parva*

A rare passage migrant: Fourteen records; on Islay in Nov 1974 and Oct 1975, Colonsay and Gigha in 2010, two singles on Tiree in Oct 2012, two in Jun and two Sep/Oct on Tiree in 2014, singles on Tiree in Oct 2016, Sep 2017, Oct 2019 and Jun 2020.

Spring A fem/2cy male was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 24 May [J. Bowler, J. Hunter]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC.*

Autumn A 1cy was at Balephuill *Tiree* on 9 Sep [J. Bowler, J. Hunter]. *Record was accepted by the ABRC and is the earliest autumn arrival in Argyll.*

PIED FLYCATCHER* *Ficedula hypoleuca*

AMBER LIST A scarce summer visitor and passage migrant breeding very locally in oak woods in parts of the mainland and possibly Mull. An increase in the breeding population in the 1980s-2000s was attributable to the Argyll Bird Club nest-box scheme but numbers have since

declined; possibly due to Pine Marten predation of boxes, with few confirmed breeding records in recent years. Rare but near-annual on passage on the islands, especially Tiree.

Spring/breeding A breeding pair found at Bonawe North Argyll on 5 Jun, and a pair in the grounds of Carradale House Kintyre during Jun but breeding outcome unknown.

Autumn Single birds at Claddach Islay on 5 Sep and at Balephuill Tiree on 27-29 Aug and 7 Sep.

BLACK REDSTART* *Phoenicurus ochuros*

AMBER LIST A *less than annual passage migrant: most records have been in spring (late Mar to May) or late autumn (Oct to mid-Nov).*

Spring A female-type was at Ballyhaugh Coll on 29 Mar.

Autumn A fem/imm was near the Tarbert slip Kintyre on 8 Nov, a fem/imm was near Largiebaan, Mull of Kintyre Kintyre on 13 Nov and another fem/imm was at the breakwater area south Ardrishaig Mid-Argyll on 24 Dec until year end.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

AMBER LIST A *summer visitor: locally common in open woodland. It is a scarce passage migrant on: Coll, Colonsay, Islay and Tiree.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from only (Colonsay/Cowal/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree). First reports were singles at Barsloisnach Mid-Argyll on 16 Apr, Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll on 20 Apr and Kilbride Farm Cowal on 22 Apr and then 3 at Ostel Bay lochan Cowal on 28 Apr. A migrant male was at Scalasaig Colonsay on 26 Apr (only the 6th record for the island) and a migrant female was at Meningie Tiree on 17 May. Most reports from sites in; Cowal (11), Mid-Argyll (11), Mull (4) and North Argyll (4). At least 2 Ters at Taynish NNR Mid-Argyll in May, 2 Ters at Barr Fhithich Mid-Argyll and 3 Ters Loch Tulla North Argyll in May.

Autumn No autumn reports.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

RED LIST A *sparse but widespread, summer visitor.*

Spring/summer Reports from all areas. First arrivals were singles at Barravulin Mid-Argyll, Kinnabus Islay, and Craighouse Jura on 19 Apr, and Dunaverty Kintyre on 20 Apr. More widespread arrivals after 29 Apr. Reports from sites in; Coll (1), Colonsay (1), Cowal (10), Islay (5), Jura (3), Kintyre (2), Mid-Argyll (9), Mull (28), North Argyll (3) and Tiree (3).

Breeding On Islay 14 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 20 Ters at RSPB The Oa (cf. 14 in 2021). In Kintyre 2 yng noted Lephenstrah Bridge on 28 Jul and in Mid-Argyll a min of 7 Ters at the Moine Mhor area. No Ters found on Colonsay. Fledged birds noted in Mid-Argyll from early Jul with 3 family groups Gleann Domhainn Mid-Argyll on 4 Jul and a family group on Shuna North Argyll on 9 Jul.

Autumn Reports decreased through Aug. Juvs still present at Ardnahoe Islay on 6 Sep and last reports of 2 at Dunaverty Bay Kintyre on 8 Sep, 1 at Grasspoint Mull on 9 Sep and 1 at Balephuill Tiree on 20 Sep.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus*

A widespread resident, but some leave breeding areas during winter. Numbers can decline dramatically after severe winters.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds from numerous widespread sites and max counts of 9 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 27 May and 8 at Loch Spelve *Mull* on 28 May. Prs returned to many areas during Feb-Mar.

Summer/breeding On *Colonsay* 18 Ters, also 2 Ters on Oronsay. On *Islay* 24 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart and 26 Ters at RSPB Oa Reserve. In *Mid-Argyll* 5-6 Ters at the Moine Mhor area. On *Tiree* 16 Ters at 13 sites. First fledged young on *Tiree* noted on 10 May, where a good breeding season.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-8 birds from numerous widespread sites and max counts of 15 on *Iona Mull* on 30 Aug and 11 at *Calgary Mull* on 6 Aug.



Stonechat *Mid-Argyll* Mar 2022 (J. Dickson)

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

AMBER LIST A *common summer visitor; and passage migrant.*

Spring Reports from all areas except. First reports of singles at Lagganulva *Mull* on 11 Mar, Kerrera and Danna, both *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Mar, Loch Buie and Laggan Bay, both *Mull* on 13 Mar and Sanaigmore *Islay* on 14 Mar. Reports from *Jura* on 19 Mar, Claid beach *Coll* on 20 Mar, *North Argyll* on 22 Mar, *Colonsay* on 23 Mar, *Tiree* on 24 Mar, when there was an obvious arrival and in *Cowal* on 28 Mar, followed by widespread and increased nos. Max counts noted; 25 at *Calgary Mull* on 19 Apr, 20 at Borgadale Glen *Kintyre* on 20 Apr and 14 on *Iona Mull* on 27 Apr.

Summer/breeding Widespread breeding noted from all areas, but mainly on the islands, in low numbers. On *Islay* 21 Ters at RSPB Oa Reserve and present at RSPB Ardnave and RSPB Loch Gruinart. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 16 Jun (and more widespread there in Jul) and on 19 Jun at Ardfern *Mid-Argyll* and Scarisdale *Mull*.

Autumn Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Only small nos noted with max total count of 14 on *Iona Mull* on 23 Aug. Passage birds noted widely between 5-7 Sep. Reports of singles

from 4 sites across (*Islay/Kintyre/Mull/Tiree*) in Oct and last report was 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Oct.

‘GREENLAND’ WHEATEAR *Oenanthe. o. leucorhoa*

A scarce passage migrant: probably under-recorded.

Spring The first were seen on 15 Apr when 2 were at Ballyhaugh *Coll*, 1 at the Sound of Gigha *Kintyre* and 9 were noted on Kerrera *Mid-Argyll*. Singles were at Kiloran Bay *Colonsay* on 18 Apr and Barsloisnoch *Mid-Argyll* on 19 Apr followed by an obvious influx on *Tiree* from 22 Apr, with ‘dozens’ noted around the island until 24 Apr with small numbers until 30 Apr. On *Islay* singles noted at The Oa on 4 & 5 May.

Autumn First birds noted on *Tiree* from 1 Aug when 2 were at Ruiag and 1 at Beinn Hough then small nos. through Aug, rising to 35 on 5 Sep inc. 14 in a loose group on Beinn Hynish and peaking at 44 on 12 Sep, with the last a single at Crossapol Farm on 5 Oct. On *Islay*, 12 noted from road Gruinart to Machir Bay on 7 Sep, 6 at Port Wemyss and 6 at Carrabus on 8 Sep.



Dipper Cowal Dec 2022 (A. Daw)

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*

AMBER LIST A *widespread resident breeder but scarce on Islay and generally absent from: Coll, Colonsay and Tiree.*

Winter/spring Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; Cowal (6), *Islay* (2), Jura (1) *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (4), *Mull* (11) and *North Argyll* (1), with 4 on River Eachaig Cowal on 2 May. *Under reported from most areas.*

Breeding Limited data. In *Kintyre*, ringing studies monitored 6 active nests around the Campbeltown area, with 10 chicks ringed from 3 nests. Pr feeding yng in nest at Ardura *Mull* on 8 May. Other reports of 1-2 birds, but 4 at Aros *Mull* on 21 Aug.

Autumn/winter Reports of 1-2 birds from sites in; Cowal (5), Islay (2), Kintyre (1), Mid-Argyll (5), North Argyll (3). *Under reported from most areas.*

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

RED LIST A *resident breeding bird commonly associated with human habitation. Distribution is rather localised in sparsely inhabited areas. Larger flocks gather in late summer and autumn where traditional agriculture persists.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Largest counts included 80 at Bruichladdich Islay on 21 Feb, 65 on Iona Mull on 29 Mar, 40 at Gallanach Coll on 20 Jan, 30 at Balephuill Tiree on 30 Apr and 20 at Kames Cowal on 14 May. Few counts from elsewhere and birds usually recorded as 'present'.

Summer/breeding First fledged birds noted at Bridgend Mid-Argyll on the early date of 25 Apr. Max counts of 260 feeding on cut silage at Ruaig Tiree on 28 Aug (120+ still there on 5 Sep), 50 at Arinagour Coll on 7 Jul, 49 on Iona Mull on 31 Aug, 40 at Oban Mid-Argyll on 13 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll). Away from Tiree where large nos, max counts of 200 on Iona Mull on 23 Sep, 98 on Oronsay Colonsay on 3 Aug and 80 at Lephenstrath Bridge Kintyre on 9 Sep, otherwise the highest count received from other sites was 25 at Ardchoirk Mull on 18 Sep.

TREE SPARROW* *Passer montanus*

RED LIST *Nowadays mostly a very scarce migrant but after a gap of nearly 30 years breeding was recorded on Islay in 2009.*

Spring On Islay 2 were at feeders at Coultorsay on 18 Mar, with 1 on 30 Mar, 2 at Gruinart Fm on 9 & 12 May and 3 at Easter Ellister on 10 May. On Mull 2 at Bunessan on 27 Apr.

Autumn Two were at Loch Skerrols Islay on 6 Oct.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

AMBER LIST A *widespread resident breeder although nowhere numerous. It is scarce on Coll and Jura and first bred on Tiree in 2020. Recent observations would suggest that birds are quite frequent in pre-thicket/thicket conifer plantations as well as in more traditional habitats. Increased numbers in autumn presumably relate to migrants.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, 1-4 birds noted, but 6 at Ardachy North Argyll on 21 Apr. Most reports from (Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull).

Summer/breeding Singing birds noted from early Mar. A Ter found at Kilmory Lodge, Scarba Mid-Argyll on 29 Mar. At least 1 pr noted on Tiree following first confirmed breeding there in 2020 with a fledged juvenile at Vault on 5 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas, with most reports from (Cowal/Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull), generally of 1-4 birds, but 6 on Iona Mull on 4 Oct and 6 in a Kilmartin garden Mid-Argyll on 17 Dec during freezing weather.

YELLOW WAGTAIL* *Motacilla flava*

RED LIST A *scarce passage migrant: birds of the Blue-headed race M. f. flava occur from time to time, and there have been at least two records of the Grey-headed race M. f. thunbergi (in 1985 and 2005).*

Spring A male 'Blue-headed' was at RSPB Loch Gruinart Islay on 18 May [J. How], a fem, probably 'Blue-headed' was at Balevullin Tiree on 18-19 May [O. Smart] and a male 'Blue-headed' was at Fidden Mull on 29 May [J. Tordoff].

Autumn A 1cy bird of ‘undetermined race’ was at Sandaig Tìree on 13-14 Sep [K. Gillon, J. Bowler]. All records were accepted by the ABRC.



Grey Wagtail Mid-Argyll Dec 2022 (J. Lehmann)

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

AMBER LIST *Widespread resident breeding species, although does not breed on Tìree and Coll; some emigration in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Tìree). Most reports from sites in; Mull (30), Mid-Argyll (14), Cowal (11) and Islay (10). Most reports were in; Mar (26) and May (40). Most sightings of just 1-2 birds, however 4 were at Loch Ba Mull on 25 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data received. Prs noted mainly from (Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll). In Kintyre study area fewer breeding attempts, but 10 young fledged from two nests (b/5 & b/5) and nest found built on Dipper’s nest at Glenbarr. Fledged juvs noted at Lephenstrath Bridge Kintyre on 15 Jul and at Kilchreggan Mid-Argyll on 26 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Jura). Most reports from sites in; Mull (15), Mid-Argyll (28), Mull (27), and North Argyll (9). Most reports were in; Aug (52), Sep (37) and Oct (39) with fewer in Nov – Dec. Generally, only 1-3 birds noted, however 5 were at Oban Bay Mid-Argyll on 28 Oct. On Tìree singles were at Balephuill on 24 Sep & 4 Oct and at Vaul on 29 Sep and on Coll one was at the Lodge on 22 Aug.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

A widespread and common breeder: absent from many areas in winter. Returning birds generally arrive in late Feb to early Mar and depart Aug/Oct.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most reports from coastal areas in winter and increasing towards spring. Reports by month; Jan (10), Feb (7), Mar (62), Apr (67) and May (100). Max counts of 54 at Tayinloan Kintyre on 17 Jan and 47 there on 21 Feb, 40 at Loch a’ Phuill Tìree on

21 Mar, 25 at Dervaig *Mull* on 24 Mar, 25 on Hough beach *Coll* on 30 Mar and 60 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data, but widespread. Prs noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, with first fledged there noted on 6 Jun. On *Islay* 9 prs noted on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Max counts of 80 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Aug and 45 there on 9 Sep, 60 on Iona *Mull* on 23 Sep and 50 on Luinig *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug. Elsewhere, many counts of 1-30 birds.

'WHITE' WAGTAIL *Motacila alba alba*

A passage migrant, usually recorded in spring and extent of autumn passage obscured by identification difficulties. May have bred.

Spring Reports from (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*). First arrivals of 2 at Lagganulva *Mull* and 2 at Traigh Bhi *Tiree* on 27 Mar, then 2 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 10 Apr. Max counts inc., 18 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 21 Apr, 11 at Port Mor *Colonsay* on 20 Apr and 10 at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 25 Apr. Elsewhere counts of 1-7 birds.

Autumn Reports from only (*Colonsay/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Tiree*). First reports were of early singles at The Green *Tiree* on 4 Aug and at Carradale *Kintyre* on 8 Aug. An influx from 22 Aug when 8 were at Gott Bay *Tiree*. Thereafter max counts of 25 at Ballyhaugh *Coll* on 9 Sep, 20 at Traigh nam Barc *Colonsay* on 29 Aug and 15 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 4 Sep, with fewer until 12 Sep, then none until the last report of the year of 2 at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 2 Oct.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

AMBER LIST *An abundant breeding species: most leave higher ground and some islands in winter, and significant flocks occur on passage. Those wintering in Argyll occur mainly in coastal and low-lying localities.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Generally, only small nos during Jan increasing in late Feb. Max counts of; 110 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 14 Apr, 54 at Iona *Mull* on 29 Mar, 30 on Beinn Buidhe *Mid-Argyll* on 2 Apr and 30 at Beinn an Lochan *Cowal* on 14 Apr. Elsewhere, counts of 1-30 birds.

Summer/breeding Good numbers and widespread. On RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 138 prs recorded on transects. Many birds on Ters from mid-Apr. Large numbers of active nests on *Tiree* during May with many fledglings noted from early Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Increase in numbers noted from early Jul with many flocks of 20-50 birds. Higher counts inc., 700 at Loch na Keal *Mull* on 29 Aug, 300 on Iona *Mull* on 3 Sep, 240 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 14 Sep, 150 at Carnain, Loch Indaal *Islay* on 9 Sep, 150 at Carskey Bay *Kintyre* on 30 Aug, 100 at the Reef *Tiree* on 27 Jul and 100 on Luinig *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug. Numbers reduced during Oct and only groups of up to 20 during in Nov-Dec.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

RED LIST *A summer visitor breeding commonly on the mainland: also widespread on Jura and Mull, but very scarce on Islay.*

Spring/summer/breeding Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay/Tiree*). First reports of singles at Eriska *North Argyll* on 6 Apr, Kilmartin *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Apr and Clachaig *Cowal* on 12 Apr, with a more general arrival by 19 Apr. Most reports from (sites) in *Cowal* (26), *Islay* (2), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (2) *Mid-Argyll* (12), *Mull* (26) and *North Argyll* (15). Max site counts of 24 at

Allt Coire Cheathich *Cowal* on 24 Apr, 20 at Lochan Wood, Dunoon *Cowal* on 25 Jul, 10 at Lussagiven *Jura* on 19 Apr, 10 at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 2 May, 7 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 4 May and 6 at Grasspoint *Mull* on 24 May. 6 on the Rhudle, Drimvore BBS transect *Mid-Argyll* on 7 May.

Autumn A single migrant at Balephuil *Tiree* on 28 Aug and 2 lingering at Loch Tulla *North Argyll* on 30 Aug were the last reported.



Tree Pipit *Mid-Argyll* May 2022 (J. Dickson)

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus petrosus*

A common resident breeding species on coasts, sea lochs and islands with some emigration and passage in autumn: scarce passage and winter visitor elsewhere.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Max counts of 45 at Gribun Cliffs *Mull* on 21 Feb, 10 at Machir Bay *Islay* on 23 May and 10 at Fidden *Mull* on 29 May. Elsewhere, counts of 1-9 birds, however most reports of 1-2.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. At RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* 20 prs recorded on transects.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Max counts of 20+ at Carskey Bay *Kintyre* on 27 Aug, 20 at Danna *Mid-Argyll* on 28 Dec, 18 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 11 Dec and 15 at Traigh nan Gilean *Tiree* on 2 Oct. Elsewhere, counts of 1-10 birds.

‘SCANDINAVIAN’ ROCK PIPIT* *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

A Rock Pipit – a Nordic & Russian sub-species. Rare visitor but true status in Argyll is still unclear. Less than ten records of birds in spring plumage since first assessed in 2011.

2020 A bird showing many features of this race was at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 27 Feb [S. Lister *et al*].

Spring A bird showing many features of this race was at Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 31 Mar [J. Bowler]. An adult *littoralis* paired with a *petrosus* were photographed at their nest on the shores of Loch na Keal *Mull* on 3 Aug [D. Pullan].

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

An abundant resident breeder: except on Coll (breeds only in very small numbers) and Tiree. Foraging flocks gather outwith the breeding season when numbers are augmented by winter visitors.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Cowal* (45), *Mull* (96) and *Mid-Argyll* (55). Max counts of 100 at Port na Birlinne *Mull* on 16 Feb, 90 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 31 Jan, 80 at Clachan *Kintyre* on 20 Jan and 60 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 24 Feb. Elsewhere, counts of 1-50 birds.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data received. In *Mid-Argyll* 21 on Kilmichael Forest BBS on 6 Jun and 15 on Bellanoch BBS on 3 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (54) and *Mid-Argyll* (45). Max counts of 824 at Corrynachenchy *Mull* on 23 Oct, 330 at Newton House *Islay* on 7 Nov, 250 at Otter Ferry *Cowal* on 31 Dec, 130 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Dec and 100 at Garmony *Mull* on 6 Nov. Elsewhere, counts of 1-80 birds.



Brambling *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2022 (J. Dickson)

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

An uncommon winter visitor in varying numbers: there have been a few summer records.

Winter/spring Good numbers reported from sites in *Islay* (2), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), and *Mull* (2) with max counts of 17 at Lephenstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 29 Jan, 8 at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 4 Feb, 8 at Ford *Mid-Argyll* on 21 Feb and 7 at Cairnbaan *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Feb.

Autumn/winter In contrast to the previous winter only eight reports; 2 at Loch Luirneach Kintyre on 19 Oct, 2 at Balephuill Tiree on 19-20 Oct, and singles at Loch Gruinart Islay on 18 Oct, at Balemartine Tiree on 21 Oct, Garmony Mull on 6 Nov, Clachaig Cowal on 18 Nov, RSPB Oa Reserve Islay on 5 Dec and Ardrishaig Mid-Argyll on 10 Dec.

The better winter/spring nos are a carry-over from the best autumn for many years in Argyll. and reflects exceptional numbers (many thousands) recorded in eastern UK and through Europe in autumn 2021.

HAWFINCH* *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

RED LIST *A rare visitor: 51 records between 1953 and 2021.*

Spring A male, probably an adult, was in a garden at Gleann Sheileach, SW Oban Mid-Argyll on 5 Apr [M. Keirnen]. An adult fem was in a garden at Glenegedale Islay on 19 May [M. Armstrong]. *Both records were accepted by the ABRC.*



Bullfinch Mid-Argyll Dec 2022 (J. Dickson)

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

AMBER LIST *A widely but thinly distributed resident. Scarce or absent on most of the islands apart from Islay and Mull. Flocks occur in winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from (Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree). Most reports from sites in; Mid-Argyll (22), Mull (28), Cowal (14) and Islay (8). Max counts of 8 at Port Rìgh Kintyre on 8 Apr, 8 at Cairnbaan Mid-Argyll on 5 Apr, 7 at Borgadale Glen Kintyre on 27 Jan, 6 at Bridgend Islay on 15 Feb and 6 at Kilmartin Mid-Argyll on 1 Jan. Counts elsewhere of 1-5 birds. A fem was at Balephuill Tiree on 18 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data received; fledged yng noted in Mid-Argyll at Lochgilphead and Cairnbaan, at Loch Gruinart Islay and in Kintyre at Lecknacrevie Burn and Lephinsthath Bridge.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (Coll/Colonsay/Jura/Tiree). Most reports in; Oct (18) then Dec (17). Most reports from sites in; Islay (13), Mid-Argyll (14) and Mull (18). Max counts of 10 at Finlaggan Islay on 9 Nov, 9 at Laggan Bridge Islay on 5 Nov, 8 at Gearach Islay

on 9 Dec, 7 at Port Righ *Kintyre* on 10 Sep and 7 at Scallastle *Mull* on 6 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-6 birds.



Common Rosefinch *Islay* Oct 2022 (J. How)

COMMON ROSEFINCH* *Erythrura erythrina*

A scarce to rare visitor which may have bred: 35 records between 1989 and 2021, mostly in May and Jun however more frequent reports of juveniles in the autumn recently.

Spring An adult (red) male was at Balephuil *Tiree* on 20 May [M. & J. Vale, J. Bowler].

Autumn A juv (1cy) was in a garden at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 27-28 Oct [J. How *et al*]. Both records were accepted by the ABRC.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris*

RED LIST A *locally common resident and partial migrant, decreasing nationally due to bird-feeder diseases, with fewer breeding on the islands than on the mainland. Small groups are widespread outside the breeding season.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Counts of 1-5 birds at sites in; *Coll* (4), *Cowal* (13), *Islay* (6), *Jura* (1), *Kintyre* (4), *Mid-Argyll* (14), *Mull* (27), *North Argyll* (4) and *Tiree* (5). Max counts of 7 at Balephetrish *Tiree* on 5 Jan, 6 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 8 & 23 Mar and 6 at Tullich, Loch Melfort *Mid-Argyll* on 5 May.

Summer/breeding Limited data received. In *Mid-Argyll* 6 Ters and 2 fledged yng noted at Crinan on 26 May and fledged yng at Kilchregan on 26 Jul, and fledged yng reported at The Oa *Islay* on 29 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Counts of 1-6 birds at sites in; *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (1), *Cowal* (4), *Islay* (8), *Kintyre* (2), *Mid-Argyll* (6), *Mull* (11), *North Argyll* (3) and *Tiree* (3). Max counts of 20 at Toward *Cowal* on 24 Dec, 15 at Crossapol *Tiree* on 21 Nov, 14 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 24 Oct and 12 at Balliemore, Kerrera *Mid-Argyll* on 22 Nov.



Greenfinch *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris*

RED LIST A *local resident, mainly in coastal areas on the mainland and islands; winter flocks may comprise resident and migrant birds.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/North Argyll*). Few reports away from *Islay* and *Tiree* during Jan-Mar, but some reports from sites on *Coll* (3), *Colonsay* (2), *Kintyre* (2) and on *Luing Mid-Argyll* (3) but birds generally returning elsewhere in Apr-May. All higher counts were on *The Oa Islay* where a peak of 150 on 13 Jan. Elsewhere, higher counts of 220 at *Cliaid Coll* on 20 Apr, 70 at *Ruaig Tiree* on 5 Jan, 60 at *Aird Luing Mid-Argyll* on 14 Feb, 55 at *Loch Gruinart Islay* on 13 Feb and 40 at *Machrihanish Links Kintyre* on 7 Apr. Noted at sites on *Mull* (27) with max count of 28 at *Knockvologan* on 10 Apr. There were no reports from mainland *Mid-Argyll*, only the *Garvellach* islands and *Kerrera*, *Luing* and *Seil*. In *Kintyre* 20 were at *Tayinloan* on 5 Jan, 1-3 at *Machrihanish SBO* in late Mar and reported from *Sanda* in Apr.

Summer/breeding Prs noted and heard singing at sites in; (*Coll/Colonsay/Islay/Jura/Mid-Argyll/Mull/North Argyll/Tiree*) from Apr with most reports from island areas. First fledglings noted on *Tiree* from 21 Jun and following a good breeding season scattered family flocks of 15-20 around the island in Jul. Fledged yng also reported from (*Colonsay/Islay*)

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Cowal/Jura*). Most reports from *Islay*, *Mull* and *Tiree*. Most reports by month; Oct (33), Nov (29), Sep (18), and Dec (14). Max counts included; several over 300 at *The Oa Islay* peaking at 660 on 7 Dec, 220 across 2 sites (*The Reef & Greenhill*) on *Tiree* on 5 Sep, 150 at *Ballinoe Tiree* on 30 Sep. Elsewhere, higher counts inc., 70 at *Eilean Traighe*, *Ormsary Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov, 70 at *Caliach Pt Mull* on 20 Aug, 60 at *High Ranachan Kintyre* on 6 Nov, 45 on *Staffa Mull* on 20 Sep, 45 at *Ardnave Islay* on 16 Aug, 40 on *Oronsay Colonsay* on 5 Oct and 30 at *Aird Luing Mid-Argyll* on 22 Dec.

LINNET *Linaria cannabina*

RED LIST A *sparsely distributed partial migrant, breeding mainly on Islay, Tiree, and in Kintyre. Flocks occur locally in some areas in autumn with most reports from Colonsay, Islay and Kintyre.*

Winter/spring Reports from only (*Coll/Colonsay/Cowal/Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll/Mull/Tiree*). Generally absent Jan-Feb other than 5 at Tayinloan *Kintyre* on 17 Jan and 2 at RSPB Loch Gruinart *Islay* on 14 Feb. Returning birds noted from mid Mar when 180 at The Laggan *Kintyre* on 14 Mar, and on *Tiree* from 28 Mar then more widespread elsewhere through Apr. Max counts of 24 at Arinagour *Coll* on 20 Apr and 20 at Baugh *Tiree* in Apr. Elsewhere, counts of up to 12 birds.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. 10 prs noted on transects at RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Noted as widespread on *Tiree* in May, first fledged birds noted on *Tiree* from 12 Jun and at Crinan *Mid-Argyll* from 28 Jun. Fledged yng also noted Machrihanish SBO *Kintyre*.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*). Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (21), *Islay* (12), *Colonsay* (9) and *Kintyre* (9). Most reports by month; Aug (57), Sep (23), Oct (13), Nov (2) and Dec (2). Max counts; 350 at Ardnave *Islay* on 16 Aug, 350 at Cornaigbeg *Tiree* on 12 Sep, 350 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Aug, 220 at Sunderland *Islay* on 10 Sep, 200 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 8 Aug, 150 at The Oa *Islay* on 7 Oct and 70 at Toberonochy, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 25 Aug. Elsewhere, counts of 1-60 birds. Most birds had moved away from Argyll by Dec.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea*

Includes Mealy Redpoll C. f. flammea & Greenland Redpoll C. f. rostrata (latter now sometimes known as North-western Redpoll, which includes islandica). A scarce passage migrant: and irregular winter visitor. Mealy has bred on Tiree and also suspected of breeding on other islands.

Winter/spring First arrival of 1 at Balephuill *Tiree* on the early date of 19 Mar. Reports from six other *Tiree* sites during Apr-Jun. Two at Totronald *Coll* on 21 Apr and a pr at Tayvallich *Mid-Argyll* on 29 May.

‘Greenland’ *rostrata* types: 1 at Loch Turraman *Colonsay* on 19 May and 1 at Urugaig *Colonsay* on 21 Jun.

Summer/breeding All reports from *Tiree*. At least 12 prs across 4 sites in May and 6-8 prs across 4 sites in Jun. Fledged birds noted from 25 Jun. Max count of 12 at Balephuill/Carnan Mor during Aug.

Autumn/winter Still 25 at Balephuill *Tiree* until 13 Oct, thereafter 4 on 21 & 28 Oct, and 2 at the Glebe *Tiree* on 3 Nov being the last.

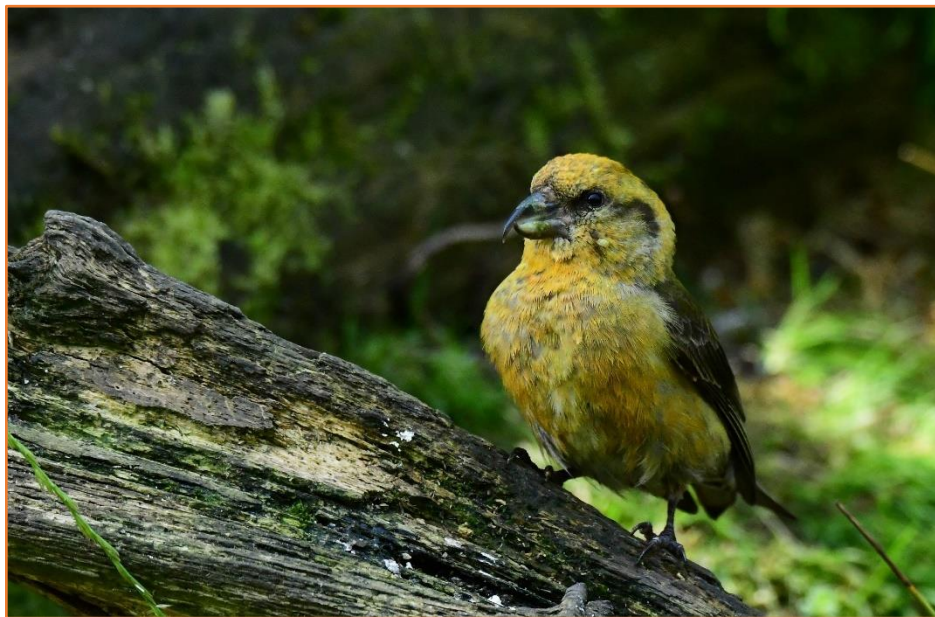
LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

RED LIST A *locally common partial migrant, breeding locally: numbers fluctuate from year to year. Post breeding flocks gather from July and most birds move south for the winter.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. More reports this winter with 25 on Scarba *Mid-Argyll* on 24 Jan and 40 at Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 26 Feb. Many more in spring than 2021 with max counts of 100 at Scallastle *Mull* on 20 Apr, 60 at Inverneil *Mid-Argyll* on 16 Mar, 50 at Claggain Bay *Islay* on 12 Mar, 37 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 13 Apr and 12 at the Lodge *Coll* on 28 May. Counts of 1-10 birds elsewhere.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. 18 prs in transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay*. Reports from (*Coll/Islay/Mid-Argyll/North Argyll*). Max counts of 25 at Duiletter *North Argyll* on 8 Jul and 20 (with many juvs) at Achnacarron *Mid-Argyll* on 26 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll/Colonsay*). Max counts of 75 on *Ulva Mull* on 29 Aug, 60 at *Loch Spelve Mull* on 4 Sep, 20 at *Machrie Islay* on 25 Oct and 20 at *Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug. Counts of 1-10 elsewhere. Most reports Sep-Oct and only limited reports in Nov (3) and Dec (5).



Crossbill *Mid-Argyll* Jul 2022 (B. Anderson)

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

An irruptive species: large numbers breed in good cone years, but few stay when cones are scarce.

All year Reports by month; Jan (3), Feb (1), Mar (12), Apr (10), May (8), Jun (2), Jul (6), Aug (8), Sep (4), Oct (2), Nov (2) and Dec (2). Reports by region (sites); *Cowal* (3), *Islay* (4), *Kintyre* (9), *Mid-Argyll* (17), *Mull* (17) and *North Argyll* (6). Max counts of 40 at *Loch Ba Mull* on 1 Apr, 24 at *Achallader North Argyll* on 11 Dec, 21 at *Carradale Kintyre* on 4 May, 20+ at *Tiroran Mull* on 26 Jan, and 10 in *Knapdale Forest Mid-Argyll* on 8 Oct.

Breeding Fledged broods noted at *Carradale Kintyre* (b/4) on 2 Apr and *Cornabus plantation, Oa Islay* (b/2+) on 21 Jun.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

A widely distributed resident with recent breeding on Coll, Colonsay and sporadically on Tiree. Flocks occur in autumn.

Winter/spring Reported from all areas. Few flocks noted with 100 at *Port Ellen Islay* on 22 Feb and 64 at *Port Righ Kintyre* on 28 Jan the only large counts. Elsewhere, 32 were on *Iona Mull* on 16 Apr, 30 at *Achadh, Loch Caolisport Mid-Argyll* on 14 Jan and 20 at *Castle Lachlan Cowal* on 4 Jan, however most counts were of 10 or fewer. Most reports came from *Mull*.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. First fledged birds noted at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 6 Jun, at Port Ellen *Islay* on 13 Jun and at Balephuill *Tiree* on 15 Jun (where 2 prs reared 7 yng). Breeding also reported on Oronsay *Colonsay* and at Vaul *Tiree*. 22 juv noted at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 30 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas. Most reports from (*Islay/Mid-Argyll/Mull*). Max counts of 120 at Port Rìgh *Kintyre* on 25 Dec, 110 at Blackmill Bay, Luing *Mid-Argyll* on 13 Aug and 100 Loch Skerrols *Islay* on 26 Oct. Elsewhere, 70 at Crinan Ferry *Mid-Argyll* on 30 Aug, 50 at Toward *Cowal* on 7 Sept and 50 on Oronsay *Colonsay* on 22 Aug. Many counts of up to 50 elsewhere mainly (*Islay/Kintyre/Mid-Argyll*). Birds still around in reasonable nos until year end inc. 10 at Balephetrish Hill *Tiree* on 28 Dec.



Serin *Kintyre* Jun 2022 (A. Hand)

SERIN* *Serinus serinus*

A vagrant: No previous *Argyll* records. A rare, nearly annual passage migrant to Scotland from *Iberia*, parts of *N Africa* and across central *Europe* to *European Russia*.

Spring A 2cy+ male was at Lephonstrath Bridge *Kintyre* on 6 Jun [A. & N. Hand, J. Dickson, D. Jardine *et al*]. Record was accepted by the SBRC. This becomes a new species for *Argyll*. (see article: *Scottish Birds* Vol 42 (4) pp 378- 380)

SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

A locally common partial migrant: present in all areas apart from *Coll* and *Tiree* where it is an occasional visitor. Numbers fluctuate from year to year depending on cone crops.

Winter/spring Reports from all areas. Most reports from sites in; *Mull* (45), *Mid-Argyll* (28) and *Cowal* (26). Counts increased with improved cone crop in 2022: 115 at Fishnish *Mull* on 23 Jan, in *Mid-Argyll* 70 at Caimbaan on 7 Apr and 61 ringed in *Kilmartin* on 1 Apr, and 40 at Port Rìgh

Kintyre on 14 Jan. Elsewhere counts 1-30, with 3 at Totronald *Coll* on 12 Apr and 2 at Balephuill *Tiree* on 23 & 29 Apr.

Summer/breeding Limited breeding data. First juvs noted at Ardrishaig *Mid-Argyll* on 2 May. In *Kintyre* numbers at Lephénstrath Bridge peaked at 42 on 11 Jun and on *Mull* 20 were at Tobermory on 6 Jun.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Coll*). Many departed in the autumn with reports in Aug (32), Sep (10), Oct (16), Nov (7) and Dec (18) with lower max counts than 2021: 20 at Toward *Cowal* on 22 Oct, 15 at Loch Caolisport *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Aug and 12 at Achallader *North Argyll* on 11 Dec. Elsewhere, counts of 1-10 birds.



Lapland Bunting *Mull* Apr 2022 (M. Murphy)

LAPLAND BUNTING* *Calcarius lapponicus*

AMBER LIST A scarce passage migrant: recorded most frequently in autumn.

Spring A male was at Loch Beg *Mull* from 24-27 Apr and 2 males (some song display) were at Loch an Eilein *Tiree* on 26 Apr.

Autumn/winter One was at Ardnave *Islay* on 19 Sep, 1 >S calling over Balephuill *Tiree* on 22 Sep, 2 were at west end of Balephetrish Bay *Tiree* on 27 Sep, and 2 were at Grishipol *Coll* on 29 Sep.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

RED LIST Occurring annually in varying numbers (on passage and in winter): along the coast and in the hills and has probably bred in North Argyll.

Winter/spring Many fewer sightings than 2021, with singles on Ben Buie *Mull* on 5 Jan, The Reef *Tiree* on 27 Jan, Clach ne Boinneidde *Mull* on 29 Jan, then on *Coll* 2 at Cliad on 13 Feb and 1 at Arnabost on 28 Feb. 8 were over Ballygrant *Islay* on 24 Feb, then a single at Pennygown *Mull* on 25 Mar, 2 at the Rest & Be Thankful *Cowal* on 16 Apr, with 1 at Loch a' Phuill *Tiree* on 20 Apr the last reported.

Autumn/winter Very few reports. First arrivals; 1 at Sandaig *Tiree* on 2 Oct, then 2 at Ardnave *Islay* on 9 -13 Oct. Max count of 16 on Rubha Mor *Coll* on 21 Oct, elsewhere 1-2 from sites in: *Coll* (1), *Colonsay* (3), *Islay* (2), *Mull* (2) and *Tiree* (4).

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

RED LIST A *localised resident which is absent from Coll, Colonsay and Tiree and appears to be declining elsewhere. Currently, most birds breed near the coast. All records are welcome.*

Winter/spring A slight increase in reports from sites in: *Colonsay* (1), *Islay* (4), *Jura* (1) *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (8), *Mull* (10), and *North Argyll* (2). Max counts of 10 at *Caol Ila Islay* on 7 Mar. 9 at *Blackmill Bay, Luing Mid-Argyll* on 9 Apr and 6 at *Craobh Haven Mid-Argyll* on 2 Jan. Elsewhere, counts of 1-4 birds, including 1 at *Scalasaig Colonsay* on 14 May and 1 *Craighouse Jura* on 26 Mar.

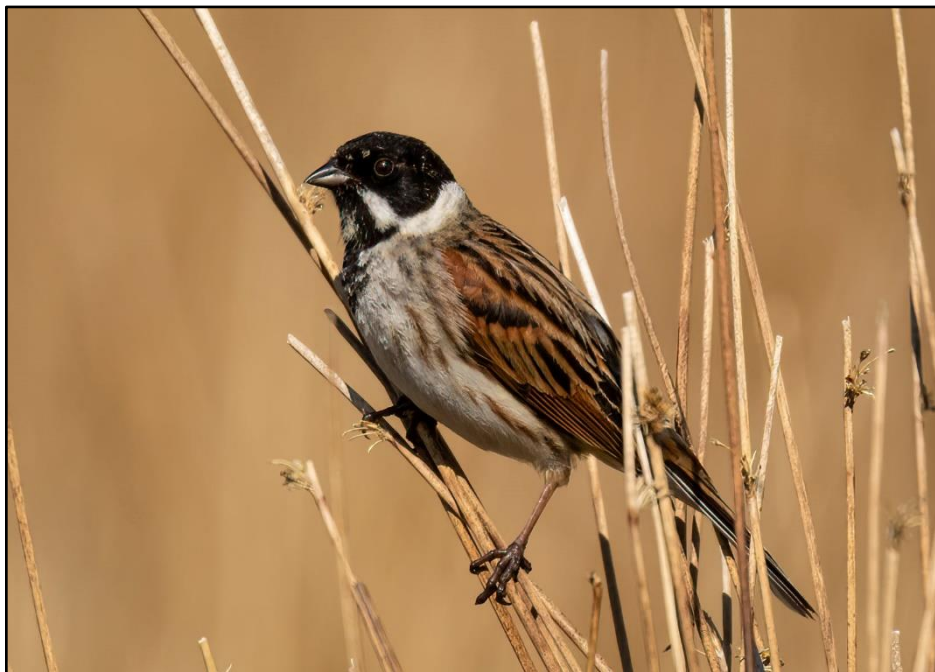
Summer/breeding A fledged brood was found on *Shuna North Argyll* on 9 Jul, and singing males were found at sites in *Jura* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (2) and *Mull* (5).

Autumn/winter Reports from sites in; *Cowal* (1), *Islay* (3), *Kintyre* (1), *Mid-Argyll* (5), *Mull* (1) and *North Argyll* (3). Max counts of 12 at *Connel Airfield North Argyll* on 1 Nov, 6 at *Keills Islay* on 26 Oct & 1 Nov, and 6 at *Kilmartin Mid-Argyll* on 9 Nov. Elsewhere, reports of 1-4, including 1 at the *Holy Loch Cowal* on 21 Sep and 5 at *Lephinsthath Kintyre* on 19 Nov.

BLACK-HEADED BUNTING* *Emberiza melanocephala*

A vagrant: Nine records; all of singles, during May to Jul, the last record being on Islay in Oct 2020.

Spring A 2cy+ male was at *Tioran Mull* on 24 May [G. Marsh]. Record was accepted by the BBRC.



Reed Bunting *Mid-Argyll* Apr 2022 (J. Lehmann)

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

AMBER LIST A *locally distributed resident breeder: while nowhere abundant, small flocks sometimes gather out-with the breeding season.*

Winter/spring Reports from all areas and generally widespread with mostly 1-6 birds at sites. Max counts of 8 at Moine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 20 Feb and 8 at Saligo *Islay* on 27 Feb.

Summer/breeding Seen in pairs during Mar. On *Islay* at least 71 Ters at RSPB Loch Gruinart, 47 prs on transects at the RSPB Oa Reserve *Islay* and 26 Ters on Colonsay & Oronsay *Colonsay*. On *Tiree* ca 20 scattered prs noted across the island, with first fledged juvs from 1 Jul.

Autumn/winter Reports from all areas except (*Jura*) and generally widespread in small nos of 1-8 birds at sites. Max counts of 80 at the Mhoine Mhor NNR *Mid-Argyll* on 12 Dec, 16 at Arinagour *Coll* on 8 Oct, 12 at Carradale *Kintyre* on 10 Oct, 11 at The Oa *Islay* on 28 Sep, 10 at Mannal *Tiree* on 15 Dec and 9 at East Loch Fada *Colonsay* on 18 Oct.

DARK-EYED JUNCO* *Junco hyemalis*

A vagrant from North America. No previous Argyll records.

Spring A male was seen and photographed at Dower House, Kildalton *Islay* on 7 May [B. Brown, M-A. Featherstone, D. Wood *et al*]. *Record was accepted by the BBRC. This now becomes a new species for Argyll. (see article: Scottish Birds Vol 42 (4) pp 370-371)*

Escapes and Introductions

This section includes species which are not on the British list or whose occurrence in the UK is EXCLUSIVELY within Categories B, D or E. Other species, whose occurrence in Argyll arises partly or wholly from introduced birds which may not or do not form self-sustaining breeding populations, include White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin Duck, Red Kite, Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon). These are dealt with in the main systematic list.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

Category E. An east Asian species occasionally kept in waterfowl collections in the UK. One previous record in Argyll.

Autumn Two were on open water at Loch Gilp *Mid-Argyll* on 11 Aug then took flight circling the loch before flying off to the south [J. Dickson].

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Category E. Probably widespread in Argyll as farmyard birds, but often survive independently, but under-recorded.

Spring Five noted on *Jura* on 16 May (site not reported).

SAKER/LANNER FALCON *Falco cherrug/biarmicus*

Category E. Falcon species often kept in captivity by falconers.

A large brown falcon photographed at Milton *Tiree* on 18 Sep was presumably an escaped falconer's bird [A. de Zegher].

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus*

Category E. *Infrequent past reports from Cowal, Kintyre and Mid-Argyll.*

One was at Achuaran, Lismore *North Argyll* on 15 Apr.



Swan Geese (right) with **Greylag** *Mid-Argyll* Aug 2022 (*J. Dickson*)

List of Rejected Records, Pending Records and Records for which Details are Still Awaited

Please note that the records below are listed for information purposes only, and do not form part of the data set for the years in question.

The following records of species on the ABRC, SBRC or BBRC lists have been found ‘not proven’ since the publication of ABR 33

Species	Recording area	Date(s)	Committee
Goshawk	<i>Mull</i>	23.09.22	ABRC
Todd’s Canada Goose (4)	<i>Tiree</i>	13.11.22	BBRC

Most records are found ‘not proven’ not because the committee in question is convinced that a mistake has been made, but because the evidence provided is insufficient to establish the identification.

Details of the following claimed 2022 records of species on the BBRC, SBRC and ABRC lists have not been received.

Species	Place	Recording Area	Date(s)
Green-winged Teal	Ardfern	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	10.03.2022
Goshawk	Glen More	<i>Mull</i>	08.05.2022
Common Crane	Portnahaven	<i>Islay</i>	14 & 18.05.2022
Great Grey Shrike	Iona	<i>Mull</i>	11.05.2022
Bittern	Loch Dochard	<i>North Argyll</i>	14.05.2022
Hobby	Tayinloan	<i>Kintyre</i>	16.07.2022
Hobby	Scarinish	<i>Tiree</i>	10 & 12.08.2022
Sabine’s Gull	Tiree ferry	<i>Tiree</i>	13.09.2022
Long-tailed Skua	Off Coll	<i>Coll</i>	08.10.2022
Long-tailed Skua	Caliach Point	<i>Mull</i>	17.10.22
Citrine Wagtail	Knock	<i>Mull</i>	07.09.2022
Rough-legged Buzzard	Location ?	<i>Mull</i>	21.09.2022
Black Kite	Beinn Buie	<i>Mull</i>	20.05.2022
Black Kite	Ardalanish	<i>Mull</i>	24.06.2022
Black Kite	Loch Caolisport	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>	12.08.2022
Red-necked Grebe	Marina slip?	<i>Kerrera</i>	30.10.2022
Red-necked Grebe	Lochdon	<i>Mull</i>	05.11.2022
Yellow-browed Warbler	Port Charlotte	<i>Islay</i>	15.11.2022

Getting Involved

Argyll Bird Club The ABC is a registered charity with membership open to all. The club aims to promote an interest in birds in Argyll. We are a friendly club for anybody interested in wild birds, living in, or visiting, Argyll, irrespective of their level of knowledge, experience or skill. Visitors are more than welcome to our two annual indoor meetings which are all-day events held on a Saturday in spring and autumn. The club produces a quarterly magazine, '*The Eider*' and also has a website with sections on 'Recent Sightings' with photographs, News with details of upcoming meetings and trips, 'Publications' and 'Surveys'. Volunteers are always welcome to help with committee matters, bird recording and the website and to contribute to *The Eider*.

Scottish Ornithologists Club The SOC exists to promote the study, enjoyment and conservation of wild birds and their habitats across Scotland and is a birdwatching club with 15 local branches across the country and a growing membership of over 3,000. Like-minded individuals with a passion for birds, nature and conservation are brought together through a programme of talks, outings, conferences and via the Club's quarterly members' journal, *Scottish Birds*. The SOC acts as the umbrella organisation for bird recording in Scotland, managing the network of recording birds in Scotland, or the Local Recorders' Network and the Scottish Birds Records Committee, the latter of which maintains the official Scottish List on behalf of the Club. The database of information Local Recorders collect is an extremely important archive of local bird information – a critical tool for their future conservation.

British Trust for Ornithology Through the efforts of volunteers participating in BTO surveys, the bird populations of the British Isles have been monitored more effectively and for longer than those of most other parts of the world. This has produced a uniquely rich and detailed body of scientific work. This will help us to understand the complex challenges facing wild birds at a time of great change in the environment. Volunteer surveyors, members and staff work in partnership to provide unbiased information about birds and their habitats.

In Argyll we have many volunteers who participate in the following surveys and you can get involved by contacting the bird recorder or any of the BTO representatives given on page 2:

BirdTrack is an exciting project, through a partnership between the BTO, the RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and the Welsh Ornithological Society, that looks at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. BirdTrack provides facilities for observers to store and manage their own personal records as well as using these to support species conservation at local, regional, national, and international scales.

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common breeding birds. It is a national volunteer project aimed at keeping track of changes in the breeding populations of widespread bird species in the UK. Wild bird populations are an important indicator of the health of the countryside, and knowing to what extent bird populations are increasing or decreasing is fundamental to bird conservation.

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of WeBS are to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to all those (several hundred) individuals who submitted records in various formats to either the BTO BirdTrack & WeBS, eBird, the Argyll recording system or to the Argyll bird recorders directly. Also, to the various organisations including, the BTO, Forestry & Land Scotland, NatureScot, the RSPB, Scottish Canals, Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme and Argyll Raptor Study Group, the SOC, the Treshnish Isles Auk Ringing Group and the Heart of Argyll Wildlife Group.

Grateful thanks to the volunteers who placed records onto the Argyll bird database; Morag Rea for (Machrihanish SBO reports from Jo Goudie & David Millward and also the Tiree reports from John Bowler), Dorothy and Peter Hogbin for (Mullbirds records from Ewan Miles) and Peter Roberts for (Islay reports from Islay Bird Blog and WhatsApp group). Also many thanks to; John Bowler (for Tiree reports and kindly checking Tiree and Coll data and the species text of this bird report), Eric Bignal (for Islay Chough data), Neil Brown (for Kintyre owl project data and Kintyre ringing study data inc. other raptors, Dipper, Grey Wagtail & Sand Martin), and Nigel Scriven & Rab Morton (for Sanda Isles data).

Many thanks also to Malcolm Chattwood who ably manages the bird database putting all the above records which come in various formats together as well as survey data requests, also to the Argyll BTO representatives John Bowler, Ewan Miles, Nigel Scriven & David Wood, to the Argyll Bird Club committee for their valuable support, to the Argyll Bird Records Committee which in 2022 comprised, John Bowler, Jim Dickson, David Jardine, Malcolm Ogilvie and Andy Robinson, and also to the SBRC & BBRC for their work and feedback on Argyll records.

The following folk kindly gave permission for their photographs to be used and greatly enrich this report; Bill Anderson, John Bowler, Jon Cook, Andrew Daw, Theo de Clermont, Jim Dickson, David Dinsley, Jonathan Farooqi, Linda Gibson, Keith Gillon, Ann Hand, Keith Helm, James How, David Jardine, Ben Jones, James Lehmann, Tom Lowe, Alistair McGregor, Ann McGregor, Tim Melling, Ewan Miles, Mike Murphy, Victoria Russell, Will Scott, John Speirs, Peter Upton, Jack Waldie, Pete Walkden.



Argyll Bird Club
Scottish Charity Number SC050823

Founded in 1985 and reformed in 2021 as a SCIO, the Argyll Bird Club aims to promote interest in and conservation of Argyll's wild birds and their natural environment. The rich diversity of habitats in the county supports an exceptional variety of bird life. Many sites in Argyll are of international importance. The Club brings together people with varied experience, from complete beginners to experts, and from all walks of life. New members are particularly welcome.
www.argyllbirdclub.org/the-club/membership

Activities

Every spring and autumn there is a one-day meeting with illustrated talks and other activities. These meetings are held in conveniently central locations. Throughout the year there are field trips to local and more distant sites of interest.

Publications

The annual journal of the Club is the *Argyll Bird Report*, containing the Systematic List of all species recorded in the county during the year, together with reports and articles. The less formal quarterly newsletter, *The Eider*, gives details of forthcoming events and activities, reports of recent meetings, bird sightings, field trips, articles, and shorter items by members and others.

Website www.argyllbirdclub.org

ARGYLL BIRD CLUB Membership Application Form

www.argyllbirdclub.org
Scottish Charity number SC050823



To apply for membership, please complete this form and send it to the Membership Secretary Dorothy Hogbin, South Craleckan, Furnace, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8XN
Tel: 01499 500665 e-mail: membership@argyllbirdclub.org

Online at: <https://argyllbirdclub.org/the-club/membership/>

I/we wish to apply for membership of the Argyll Bird Club

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone number(s) _____

e-mail: _____

Please pay by bank transfer to Argyll Bird Club

Bank of Scotland Sort code **80-22-60** account number **21843268**

or by cheque payable to Argyll Bird Club and post to the above address

or by standing order – please complete the form and return to the Membership Secretary

Annual subscription (please tick box)

Ordinary	£10	[]
Junior (25 and under)	free	
Family	£15	[]
Corporate	£25	[]

Main Argyll Birdwatching Sites

Listed under the ten regions of Argyll (see map, next page)

COLL 1.Totronald RSPB Reserve

TIREE 2.Balephetrish Bay 3.Balephuill & Carnan Mor 4.Gott Bay 5.Loch a' Phuill
6.Loch an Eilein 7.Loch Bhasapol 8.Sorobaidh Bay 9.Traigh Bhagh/The Reef

COLONSAY 10.Colonsay House Woodlands 11.Loch Fada (East, Middle & West)
12.Oronsay 13.The Strand & Garvard

COWAL 14.Benmore Gardens 15.Holy Loch & Dunoon coast 16.Loch Eck &
Glenbranter Forest 17.Loch Long, Strone Point to Ardentinny 18.Otter Ferry & Loch Fyne
19.Tighnabruaich, Kames & Kyles of Bute

ISLAY 20.Ardnave Loch & Point 21.Bridgend Woods & Loch Skerrols 22.Frenchman's
Rocks 23.Loch Gorm 24.Loch Gruinart 26.Machir Bay 27.The Oa peninsula

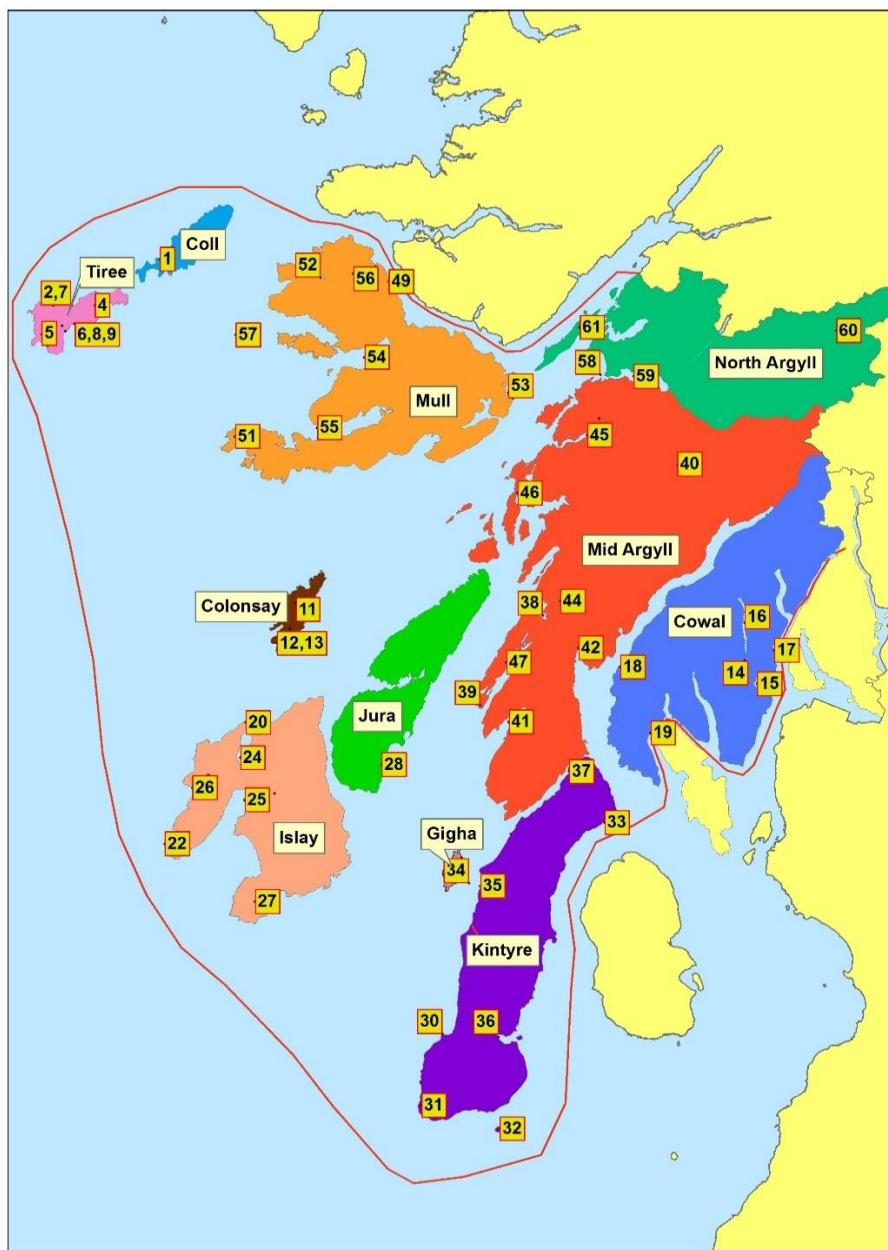
JURA 28.Craighouse & Small Isles Bay

KINTYRE & GIGHA 29.Campbeltown Loch 30.Machrihanish SBO (Seabird
Observatory) 31.Mull of Kintyre 32.Sanda Islands 33.Skipness & Bay 34.Sound of
Gigha 35.Tayinloan & Rhunahaorine Point 36.The Laggan 37.West Loch Tarbert

MID-ARGYLL 38.Add Estuary & Loch Crinan 39.Loch Sween, Danna & Ulva Lagoons
40.Loch Awe 41.Loch Caolisport 42.Loch Gilp 43.Loch Nell 44.Moine Mhor NNR
(National Nature Reserve) 45.Loch Feochan 46.Seil Island & Isle of Luing 47.Taynish
NNR

MULL 48.Aros Park & Tobermory 49.Calgary & Treshnish 50.Grasspoint 51.Iona
52.Loch a' Chumbahainn ('Loch Cuin') 53.Loch Don 54.Loch na Keal 55.Loch Scridain
56.Mishnish Lochs 57.Treshnish Isles

NORTH ARGYLL 58.Ledaig Point & Ardmucknish Bay 59.Loch Etive 60.Loch Tulla
61.Lismore 62.Loch Creran & Loch Laich



Ten regions of Argyll and main birdwatching sites